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Vol. 105 · No. 2	February 1949
CODES, COSTS AND STANDARDS	83
A HOUSE FITTED TO THE BERKSHIRE HILLS Marcel Breuer, Architect	84
WAGE STABILIZATION STIMULATES BUILDING	94
ELECTRONICS PARK, SYRACUSE, N. Y	Giffels & Vallet,
CAPE COD COTTAGE STYLED FOR SUMMER Cottage for Mrs. Ruth Boardman, "Saltboxes," South Yarmouth, M Architect	
BUILDING TYPES STUDY NO. 146 APARTMEN	TS 107
"EASTGATE" APARTMENTS AS A FRESH PLAN TYPE For New England Mutual and Massachusetts Institute of Technolo and Engineers for Eastgate Apartments	107 gy. By Architects
"SKIP-FLOOR CORRIDOR" PLANS — A PROMISING TH By Julian H. Whittlesey	REND 124
ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF "SKIP-FLOOR" PLA By Julian H. Whittlesey	NS 128
ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING Technical News or	nd Research 129
RESEARCH IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY By C. F. Rassweiler	129
WATER REPELLENT PRESERVATIVES WORK ON WO By Harlan H. Edwards	OD 131
ATTIC CONDENSATION - CAUSES AND PREVENTIVE	s 135
TIME-SAVER STANDARDS	137 A.
PRODUCTS for Better Building	138
MANUFACTURERS' LITERATURE	
THE RECORD REPORTS News from the Field	7
HIDDEN TALENT COMPETITION WINNERS	10
LETTERS from Record Readers	
FROM BACK YARDS TO COUNTRY GARDENS	
MUSEUM BUILDS EXPANDABLE HOUSE	24
CONSTRUCTION COST INDEXES	
REQUIRED READING	
NEWS FROM CANADA By John Caulfield Smith	
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES	194
INDEX TO ADVERTISEMENTS	216

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THE RECORD REPORTS

Hoover Commission Recommendations on Hospital Construction Stir Controversy • Housing Bills Pour into Congress • T-E-W Path Is Smoothed

Powerful forces are pulling to and fro the Hoover Commission task force recommendation that all of the government's hospital construction activities be centralized under a National Bureau of Health. But it is still too early to tell much about the attitude of the new Congress toward this phase of the Commission's work. Congressional opinion on the entire report, for that matter, is not expected to jell for some time since the deadline for receiving the final Hoover Commission recommendations on Capitol Hill has been extended two months — to March 13.

Meanwhile, the task force findings on federal medical services, containing the suggested plan for reshuffling hospital construction activities, have caused a commotion in construction circles. Architects generally will be in favor of the cost and manpower saving plan to group the government's construction activities in one central bureau, though this means a somewhat curtailed construction program, it is believed. The American Institute of Architects will not be able to publish a formal description of its stand on the question until its annual convention next month, one spokesman said, but the A.I.A. is watching developments with keen interest. It already has a hand in the Hoover Commission deliberations, having recommended that all architectural work of the federal government be correlated in bureaus in each agency and passed out by these bureaus to persons in private practice. Of course, that suggestion could apply whether the hospital building programs were left as they are now or combined under one central control.

Administration Support Expected

The Administration itself is pretty well bound to lend encouragement to the final Hoover Commission recommendations. The 80th Congress established the Commission as, presumably, a nonpartisan body to study and recommend a reorganization of the Executive Branch. More than a year's work will have gone into the studies of a score of separate governmental fields. From the task force or subcommittee reports already made public, it is evident that the final report will tell Congress that many millions of dollars, much time, energy and manpower can be saved if functions of the executive offices are rearranged. Centralization of like activities, it appears, will be the keynote for most of the Hoover recommendations.

Pulling against these proposed combinations of like activities under central authority in many instances are present government personnel. This is to be expected. As pointed out by Congressman Christian A. Herter, special interest groups are expected to raise strong opposition to plans for disturbing the status quo.

Veterans Denounce Plan

Immediately after the task force report on federal medical services was released, the major veteran organizations publicly denounced the plan for placing all hospital construction control — Veterans Administration and Public Health Service — under the centralized Bureau of Health. These powerful veteran groups gave the impression that they were satisfied with Veterans Administration of VA hospitals and would oppose a change in the present setup. Yet the medical director for VA has come out in favor of centralization of hospital activities as proposed by the Hoover subcommittee.

Manpower Is the Problem

Architects, and construction people generally, are interested particularly in this phase of the task force report on federal medical services:

The subcommittee, which is chairmanned by Tracy S. Voorhees, president of the Long Island College Hospital and special assistant to the Secretary of the Army, surveyed in great detail hospital areas which contained approximately one-sixth of all bed capacity in federal hospitals throughout the country and its possessions. The general conclusion that large amounts of money are being spent on small and inefficient hospital construction, that hospitals are being located by the Veterans Administration against the better judgment of the medical director, and that new building is going ahead while large numbers of beds remain idle for lack of adequate staffing, may well form the basis of strong support for a change from present administrative methods. The task force report deals in many specifics which cannot be ignored.

VA, it says, presently has 5600 beds idle for lack of personnel. The agency cannot staff more than 120,000 beds with qualified manpower in the "foreseeable future." The present construction program will increase bed capacity and shortage of staff by one-third or more. There are now 17 hospitals with a total of 15,600 beds for which adequate staff cannot be found. There are 12 new hospitals planned in the VA program, adding 3000 more beds, which, it is expected, cannot be adequately staffed. And still another 30 projects in view would bring *(Continued on page 12)*



-Drawn for the RECORD by Alan Dunn



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The jury of architects:

Seated, Philip C. Johnson, Professional Adviser (Museum of Modern Art); Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Director, Department of Architecture, Illinois Institute of Technology. Standing, left to right: Wallace K. Harrison, Director of Planning, United Nations Headguarters; Eero Saarinen, winner of Jefferson National Memorial Competition; Kenneth K. Stowell, Professional Adviser (ARCHITECTURAL RECORDI; Morris Ketchum, author SHOPS AND STORES; Joseph Hudnut, Dean, Graduate School of Design, Chairman of Jury

HIDDEN TALENT COMPETITION WINNERS

A great display of Hidden Talent was uncovered when over five hundred designs were judged at The Museum of Modern Art, New York, on January 7th and 8th. The designs, for a memorial community center, were submitted in the Hidden Talent Competition sponsored and conducted by *The Museum of Modern Art* and the ARCHITECTURAL RECORD; Philip C. Johnson, Consultant to the Department of Architecture of the Museum, and Kenneth K. Stowell, Editor of ARCHITECTURAL RECORD, were the Professional Advisers.

Since the purpose of the competition was "to discover and encourage latent architectural talent," the designer's eligibility was conditioned by the requirement that "no building or architectural design of his shall have been published with his name as architect or designer in any national publication."

The names of the judges were withheld until the day of judgment to insure freedom and individual sincerity of design rather than to invite attempts to win by catering to the predilections and prejudices of announced jurors. The competitors had been invited to submit the names of men whom they would like to have selected as members of the jury. The men finally selected by the Advisers were included in a large number of the competitors' lists of suggestions. The jury consisted of Chairman Joseph Hudnut, Dean, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University; Wallace K. Harrison, Architect, Director of Planning, United Nations Headquarters; Morris Ketchum, Jr., Architect, Author of SHOPS AND STORES; Mies van der Rohe, Architect, Director, Department of Architecture, Illinois Institute of Technology; and Eero Saarinen, Architect, winner of competitions for Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, St. Louis, Missouri, and the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C.

It is difficult to define and evaluate architectural design "talent" and to balance its components in judging designers on the basis of their submitted drawings. Evidence of thoughtful analysis of the problem and a logical plan solution might still be found to have produced an uninteresting and undistinguished building — or an imaginative and unusual design might well prove impractical and extravagant. The highest talent would seem to be shown in a combination or synthesis of logic and imagination, of reason and originality, or practical understanding and creative expression.

The entire jury carefully examined each drawing, discussed and debated virtues and shortcomings, and by the usual process of elimination selected the following prize winners:

First Prize, \$1000.00, Joseph Yusuru Fujikawa, Chicago, Illinois;

Second Prize, \$750.00, G. Lee Eve-

ridge, Oklahoma City, Okla.;

Third Prize, \$500.00, Edward Chase Weren, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

Ten Honorable Mentions, \$50.00 each: Herbert S. Johnson, Gainesville, Fla.; William R. Reed, Chicago, Ill.; Louis F. Mammier, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Clifford G. Foreman, Homestead, Pa.; Edward M. Fearney, Gainesville, Fla.; Spero Paul Daltas, Boston, Mass.; George E. Rafferty, St. Paul, Minn.; Elnor M. Hoops, Pontiac, Mich.; Mary Ellen Linberger, Brooklyn, N. Y.; James V. Hirsch, St. Paul, Minn.

Ten additional prizes, each consisting of a three-year subscription to the AR-CHITECTURAL RECORD and a year's membership in The Museum of Modern Art: Arthur C. Giorchino, New York, N. Y.; James Philip Storm, San Francisco, Calif.; Jules Gregory, New York, N. Y., two prizes; John David Parrish, New Orleans, La.; Claude M. Pendley, Jr., Austin, Tex.; Charles A. Woehrl, Jr., Knoxville, Tenn.; Harold C. Rosé, Gainesville, Fla.; Vanu Gopalji Bhuta, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.; James H. Hofmann, Oakland, Calif.

The Report of the Jury and the reproductions of the winning designs will be published in the ARCHITECTURAL RECORD for March, 1949. The exhibition of the competition will be held at The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53rd Street, New York, from February 2nd through March 6th, 1949. ONLY SEATS Have <u>All</u> These Selling Features!

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THE RECORD REPORTS

(Continued from page 7)

11,000 beds all told into the entire VA hospital picture, and these could be staffed only with difficulty. Continuation of the present policies may lead to a VA hospital system of 300,000 beds by 1980. So run the important findings of the Hoover subgroup.

One paragraph from the Voorhees subcommittee study points a critical finger at the present division of construction functions between the VA and the Public Health Service. It states:

"Finally, the VA's vast construction program, which is clearly required only for the care of nonservice connected cases, is thoroughly inconsistent with the other policy of the government of aiding non-federal hospitals under the Hill-Burton Act. It competes with them for scarce professional personnel other than physicians, pays higher wages for such personnel, drains off from such hospitals part of their patients, and weakens local support for construction of com-munity hospitals. We believe these destructive implications are not clearly understood.'

Including the hospital building plans of all government agencies, a construction program encompassing expenditure of some \$1.5 billion over the next three years is contemplated under the present arrangement.

Housing May Also Be Affected

Further significant implications for architects and engineers will be contained in the public construction subcommittee report which had not been made public at this writing. There have been many rumors that this task force, headed by Robert Moses, chairman of the New York State Council of Parks and of the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority, would recommend revolutionary changes in the entire federal structure as regards building functions; and it may do just that when it is unveiled early this month. This subsection is dealing with the broader subject of all federal public construction and may embrace housing activities as well. The financial aspects of housing, however, will be covered by a separate subcommittee of the Hoover Commission.

T-E-W Path Is Smoothed

But while Congressional opinion was yet to take formal shape on those subjects, the legislative groundwork was being laid for a new look at housing. Or will it be just a review of past considerations? Extensive hearings already have been held during the past few years on just about every phase of housing construction in an effort to get more post-(Continued on page 14)

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THE RECORD REPORTS

(Continued from page 12)

war homes for veterans. But each Congress has to approach its own problems with the beginning of each new session. For this reason it is not likely that there will be immediate action — floor action at least — on a housing bill. The formation of committees was not completed, nor were the new committees ready for work, until around Inauguration Day.

Preliminary work, however, is being completed, and respective Banking and Currency committees will be in a position to give housing a high priority on their schedules.

With clear Democratic majorities, it appears certain a bill shaped something like the old Taft-Ellender-Wagner measure will find its way through committees. As will be remembered, the T-E-W was kept away from the House floor in the 80th Congress by a two-vote margin in the Rules Committee, even though the House Banking Committee had given its approval and the Senate had passed the legislation. It was, therefore, an important victory for the Administration when the powerful Rules Committee coalition was shattered on the first day of the current session, with traditional party lines crumbling on a voice vote, 275 to 142. Henceforth, the chairman of any legislative committee, if his regularly reported bill has been "bottled" by the Rules Committee for 21 days, can go directly to the House for permission to call it up on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

The changed rules procedure also provides that "the Speaker shall recognize the member seeking recognition for that purpose as a question of the highest privilege."

New Procedure Criticized

House Republican leaders have charged that this new rule gives the Speaker uncommonly strong powers as a single judge of what shall come before the lower body of Congress, and it is true that the change, made before the new Congress was two hours old, opens up a clear avenue for those measures formerly stymied in the Rules Committee to get onto the House floor for a vote.

Early interpretation of the changed rule procedure by neutral House parliamentarians indicated that Speaker Sam Rayburn would have no alternative but to recognize any chairman who wanted recognition to present his bill if it had been blocked for 21 days. The only new power the Speaker possesses under the plan will be his influence with committee chairmen.

Backers of public housing, slum clear-(Continued on page 16)



Revere Quality House for the Cleveland area. Architect: W. D. Riddle, Willoughby, Ohio. Builder: Maurice J. Fishman, Precision Housing Corp., Parma Heights, Ohio

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V-BAR JOISTS AND PURLINS . V-STUDS . TRUSSES . LONGSPANS. DECKING



THE RECORD REPORTS

(Continued from page 14)

ance and repeal of the Taft-Hartley law, with substitution of a new labor measure, welcomed the change. Remembering their unsuccessful effort to obtain 218 signatures for a petition which would push the T-E-W bill past the Rules Committee and onto the House floor, the public housers were jubilant in the confidence that their legislation no longer had to travel the stormier route with danger of a permanent Rules Committee road block.

Should Congress decide to pour money into a public housing program similar to the program of construction interrupted by World War II, there are 21,000 units carried on the "deferred" list of Federal Housing Administration which the agency says might be revived. Mayor Van Antwerp of Detroit has said that 19,900 public housing units are "ready to go" across the country, 2500 of them in Detroit.

The 21,000 listed by FHA, however, are in various stages of planning. In the case of some, commitments had been approved before Congress ruled that only housing units essential to the war effort were to be continued. Others are just contemplated by local authorities, but resumption of interest under a revived program is assumed.

Housing Bills Pouring In

Meanwhile, the promised housing bills poured into the legislative hopper from the first day of the new session of Congress. True to his post-election promise, Rep. Hale Boggs of Louisiana, a member of the House Banking Committee, introduced a measure covering all phases of the old Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill which were not passed into law by the former Congress. He was not satisfied with this formal legislation, however, and made minor changes after conference with committee staff members. These he incorporated in a new bill which he placed in the House a few days later.

But perhaps more attention was being given to the details of a drastic new housing bill introduced by Mrs. Edith Nourse Rogers of Massachusetts and scheduled for reference to the Veterans' Affairs Committee at the time of its printing. This, it was understood, would differ markedly from her Veterans' Homestead Act which caused a brief flurry of excitement in the 80th session. Mrs. Rogers now hopes to put her housing aid on a two-year rather than on a five-year basis, taking some \$82 million of the taxpayers' money to do it. For one thing, the Rogers proposal envisioned something quite new in proposing that (Continued on page 144)

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Whether your plans call for double-hung, casement or projected type windows, let the "Quality-Approved" Seal be your guide when specifying. Write for free booklet containing complete specifications and names of manufacturers who can supply you with "Quality-Approved" aluminum windows. Address your request to Dept. R.

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LIGHTING

LETTERS from Record Readers

In a letter, the Harvard Graduate Center (November ARCHITECTURAL RECORD, page 119) was criticized because the dormitory room showed desks back to back, involving light from the right for one student and from the left for the other, implying "equal number of right- and lefthanded students." A deeper room was suggested as permitting rearrangement for better lighting. In reply the architects state:

The basic requirement around which the room was designed was flexibility. The first flexibility that was aimed for was the ability to divide double rooms into single rooms. This requirement seemed logical since the proportion of double rooms and single rooms had not been set and it may vary in the future. By careful planning of the room and the closets, by a concentration of the heat risers in the center mullion of the window wall, and by keeping a standard structural system throughout we have achieved this flexibility. Since a single room cannot be narrower than say eight feet, the minimum dimension making it possible to achieve the above flexibility would be sixteen feet (ours is eighteen). A deep room, proposed in the letter, which is also sixteen feet wide would be out of the question.

As to the second flexibility, we aimed for various arrangements of the furniture within both the double and single space. As was noted in the ARCHITECTURAL RECORD article, the beds, desks, and chairs are not fixed. We have, in fact, five excellent furniture plans for the double space and three for the single space. In one of these both desks face the window which many authorities agree is the most glareless lighting condition. If the students so desire, they can place the desks so that they are both getting light over the left shoulder. The lamps are movable so there is no problem about the direction of light at night.

Structural economy is achieved first by keeping a standard structural bay with equal beams (no asymmetrical bays crosswise of the (Continued on page 20) South Park Manor, Cleveland, Obio. Using Truscon 138 Double-Hung Steel Windows, Clerespan Josts and Ferrobord Steeldeck. Weinberg, Laurie & Teare, Architects. Charles Bernstein, Builder

1111

COMPLEMENT

OUR RESIDENTIAL MASTER-PIECES WITH TRUSCON SERIES 138 DOUBLE-HUNG STEEL WINDOWS

dept use of Truscon Series 138 Double-Hung Windows in two apartment groups at land, Ohio, lends an air of dignified beauty fficiency to the structures . . . and assures the ants easy-to-operate, easy-to-screen and apply sash, easy-to-drape windows that will give numberless years of trouble-free service.

outstanding window was an original develnt by Truscon in 1938, as an answer to the ent demand for an economically priced steel ow in the popular double-hung design. The

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efficiency and economy of these steel windows have been proven thru ten years of use in thousands of installations.

Of major importance in the Series 138 Truscon Double-Hung Steel Windows is the fact that the sash members are of welded tubular construction. This assures strength, durability and finished appearance. Weights and cords are not used. Operation is controlled by motor type spring balances equipped with tapes of Enduro stainless steel. Each window is completely factory weather-stripped in stainless steel. Screens and storm sash of the simplest and most economical type are available. Shade, drapery, curtain or venetian blind fixtures, of standard types are easily attached to the interior side, in holes provided in all units.





Before and After Modernizing bathrooms in Hotel Van Orman, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

MODERNIZE BATHROOMS WITH



QUALITY CABINET SHOWERS

Whenever you face the problem of bringing bathrooms up-to-date, consider the evidence of these pictures as to how Weisways can serve your purpose. Note the fine, modern appearance of Weisways. Then go beyond appearance and check the details of quality construction which assure your client's satisfaction through the years.

Weisways are built of service-tested materials. They are carefully engineered and precisionfabricated—guaranteed leakproof! Quickly, easily installed without special treatment of building walls or floors, Weisways are equally well adapted to modernizing and new building. In homes as well as in hotels, institutions and schools, Weisways combine with other standard bathroom fixtures to provide the utmost in bathroom appearance and serviceability.

Write now for detailed information.

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The pictures tell the story of striking improvement achieved through the use of Weisway Cabinet Showers in the modernization of Hotel Van Orman (formerly the Anthony) in Fort Wayne, Ind. Hotel guests prefer the comfort and cleanliness of the shower bath. In the Weisway, with its exclusive Foot-Grip, No-Slip floor of vitreous porcelain, they enjoy shower bathing at its best.

"Your Weisway Cabinet Showers in our hotel have elicited many compliments from our guests and I am happy to recommend Weisways most highly to all who are contemplating a similar installation," writes F. Harold Van Orman, president, Van Orman Hotels.

LETTERS from Record Readers

(Continued from page 18)

building which may be necessitated in a deep room solution); and secondly, by a flat slab construction fitting well with the depth of our room and eliminating beams.

> — NORMAN C. FLETCHER for The Architects Collaborative

EDITOR:

Your editorial about a housing census is genuine common sense. Many of us have been thinking along the same lines.

By all means let us have the entire picture on our subsidized housing needs so that we may cut our cloth to suit. The present figures down Washington way are 800,000 units. Why 800,000, and not 400,000 or 4,000,000?

With New York City's estimated allowance of 55,000 units against the Housing Authority's estimate of a quarter of a million needed, that would show an 80 per cent deficiency still to go in this area alone.

At present rates of \$10,000 per unit, we would have an overall of forty billion instead of a mere eight billion to finance. That would mean a considerable cut in the cost per unit or a confessed inability to meet the issue; because with roads, hospitals, schools, welfare, social security, and other essential civic services, competing for the taxpayer's dollar, together with subsidized shipping, subsidized farming and subsidized nations abroad, it can be readily seen that there will not be enough to go around unless we operate with method and with economy.

Even in taxation, the law of diminishing returns applies with all its inexorable potency. There is a limit beyond which the return diminishes and business dries up, so that the levy defeats its own ends. . . .

By all means a census such as you suggest should be taken before the housing bill is finally prepared so that the bill will stand up and the relief be a realistic one rather than a lot of help today and none left for the morrow.

-CHARLES C. PLATT, A. I. A.



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HOW THE HOFFMAN PANELMATIC CONTROL FUNCTIONS

The Panelmatic Control is the brain of the Hoffman System. It automatically maintains a constant comfort condition regardless of the outdoor temperature. Its accurate balancing mechanism is connected by capillary tubing to the temperature-sensitive bulb outdoors, and there is a similar one in the supply main. Both bulbs transmit their temperature reactions through the capillaries to the delicate balancing mechanism of the Controller. This mechanism then electrically opens or closes a Hoffman Control Valve so that exactly the proper amount of hot boiler water mixes with the circulating stream at all times.

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A shape to have in

Wood, stone and brick have each dominated periods of design. Today the material is metal.

A sheet of metal shaped like this is in its strongest structural form. This is the shape of a Robertson Q-Unit.

"Q" stands for Quick. It symbolizes Robertson's engineering of wall and floor units specifically to meet problems in construction today which did not exist a few decades ago. They also relieve today's builders of much of the unpredictable element in field labor which penalizes other materials.



Q-Panel is a metal Q-Unit, plus incombustible insulation, plus a sheet of flat metal.

A Q-Panel only $3\frac{1}{4}^{\prime\prime}$ thick has a better U-factor than a $12^{\prime\prime}$ masonry wall. Panels come in two-foot widths and are light in weight. They arrive at the site requiring a minimum of field labor. A crew of 12 men can erect an area equal to an acre of wall in one week.

Q-Panels are the logical complement

to steel framework. They are curtain walls and use metal to its utmost efficiency. They are a basic building material offering today's designers modern variations in appearance never before available. Exterior surfaces can be flat or fluted or combinations of both, achieving contrasts in light and shadow. You have the choice of metal coated steel, stainless or aluminum. Q-Panels are available now.

Close-up of Q-Panel



Federal Telecommunications Laboratories, Inc., Nutley, N. J. For buildings 1 and 2, the architect was Louis Weeks, of New York City. Buildings 3 and 4 and Tower are by Giffels & Vallet and L. Rossetti of Detroit, Michigan. Contractor was George A. Fuller Co., of New York City. Exterior walls are Robertson's aluminum Q-Panel. Floors are Robertson steel Q-Floor.

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mind while designing in the 20th Century



Q-Unit engineered as flooring is Q-Floor. It an-

swers the need of modern buildings for unlimited electrical availability. Q-Floor is the steel subfloor. The cells are crossed over by raceways which carry wires of any electrical service. It takes but a few minutes for an electrician to drill a small hole and establish a fitting on any six-inch area of the entire exposed floor.

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Fittings at any General Electric construction materials distributor's.

Q-Floor, because of quick installation (delivered pre-cut; two men can lay 32 sq. ft. in 30 seconds), and dry construction, has reduced construction time 20 to 30%. Also, it requires no preset inserts. Including suspended ceiling, Q-Floor weighs less than forty pounds per sq. ft. and has a four-hour fire rating.

Q-Floor is available now. For more details, call a Robertson representative or write



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FROM BACK YARDS TO COUNTRY GARDENS

"What can we do right now?"

That was the question asked by most of the visitors to the lavish city planning exhibit staged by the Philadelphia Planning Commission in 1947.

Mary Davis Gillies, Interiors and Architecture Editor of *McCall's Magazine*, had the answer: "Why not begin in your own back yard?" The Planning Commission liked the idea; so did Architect Oscar Stonorov, designer of the '47 exhibit. A block on Luzerne Street, in an industrial-residential section, was chosen for the experiment.

The block selected was a typical one, outlined on both sides by row houses,

each with its own back yard. The yards were separated by high board fences, and lengthwise down the middle of the block slunk the dreary alley shown in the small photo above. The houses were occupied by 15 families of assorted nationalities, religious and political affiliations. Breadwinners included a skilled machinist, a cabinetmaker, a freight conductor, a butcher and a storekeeper. The plan was to persuade every family to tear down his board fence so that the entire center section of the block could be opened up into landscaped gardens.

Architect Stonorov drew up tentative plans for the gardens, then joined Editor Gillies and Associate Editor Lucy Goldthwaite of *McCall's* in selling the project to the neighborhood. What happened is reported in full detail and full color in the February *McCall's*.

Despite considerable resistance when the plan first was proposed, all 15 families finally joined in with wholehearted enthusiasm. Down came the ugly board fences. Up went wire screens, pergolas, flower boxes. Terraces were built, flowers and lawns were planted. New friendships sprouted. And property values were increased 25 per cent!



Homer Page Photo

MUSEUM BUILDS EXPANDABLE HOUSE

Marcel Brever

Architect



In the sculpture garden behind the Museum of Modern Art, New York City, an expandable house designed by Architect Marcel Breuer is now being erected. It will be completed in April, and will remain on view for six months.

Described by Mr. Breuer as "the house for the commuter who has personal views in selecting his land, probably at least an acre," the house will cost in its full size about \$25,000. The first phase, which can be built for about \$18,000, contains a living-dining room, two bedrooms, children's playroom, bath, kitchen and utility room. The room designated "guests" in the plan at left would be the parents' bedroom in this phase. Later on, when the children are older, the garage would be added, with a new master bedroom, bath and sun deck above it, giving the parents complete privacy.

Mr. Breuer has chosen flagstone for all floors on the garden level because it is "very practical to maintain," and cool in summer. A radiant heating system will be installed in the slab.

HORIZONTALS UNLIMITED



WITH STAINE

A

Free interpretation of design is never obstructed by horizontal exposure limitations when architects specify stained cedar shingles or shakes. Double-coursing application has extended the exposure range of these versatile wall materials to the maximum desirable height of 16 inches, making the choice of horizontals virtually "un limited." Roof exposures, too, are adaptable to the pitch. Excellent texture and color, low initial cost, minimum

maintenance, high thermal value-these are inherent benefits of stained shake walls. Shakes are processed from edge-grain No. 1 grade cedar shingles. Vertical edges are sawn precisely parallel to permit tight, concealed joints. Butts are machine squared to provide straight, unbroken course lines. Application is wonderfully simple and rapid.

FOR SPECIFICATIONS SEE SWEET'S 86/70

EXPOSURE RANGE RANGE Double-Course 8" to 12" 9" to 14" 12" to 16" Length of Shake Single-Course 6" to 7½" 6" to 8½" 8" to 11" 16" 18" 24"

ONCEALED JOINTS Blended with the grooved surfaces, laid tight, joints disappear.

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STAINED SHINGLE & SHAKE ASSOCIATION

CONSTRUCTION COST INDEXES

- Labor and Materials

United States average 1926–1929=100

Presented by Clyde Shute, manager, Statistical and Research Division, F. W. Dodge Corporation, from data compiled by E. H. Boeckh & Associates, Inc.

	NEW YORK				ATLANTA					
	Resid	lential	Apts., Hotels, Office Bldgs. Brick and			Resid	lential	Apts., Hotels, Office Bldgs. Brick and	a Fac	nercial nd tory dings Brick and
Period	Brick	Frame	Concr.	Concr.	Steel	Brick	Frame	Concr.	Concr.	Steel
1920	136.1	136.9	123.3	123.6	122.6	122.8	122.9	108.6	109.8	105.7
1925	121.5	122.8	111.4	113.3	110.3	86.4	85.0	88.6	92.5	83.4
1930	127.0	126.7	124.1	128.0	123.6	82.1	80.9	84.5	86.1	83.6
1935	93.8	91.3	104.7	108.5	105.5	72.3	67.9	84.0	87.1	85.1
1939	123.5	122.4	130.7	133.4	130.1	86.3	83.1	95.1	97.4	94.7
1940	126.3	125.1	132.2	135.1	131.4	91.0	89.0	96.9	98.5	97.5
1941	134.5	135.1	135.1	137.2	134.5	97.5	96.1	99.9	101.4	100.8
1942	139.1	140.7	137.9	139.3	137.1	102.8	102.5	104.4	104.9	105.1
1943	142.5	144.5	140.2	141.7	139.0	109.2	109.8	108.5	108.1	108.7
1944	153.1	154.3	149.6	152.6	149.6	123.2	124.5	117.3	117.2	118.2
1945	160.5	161.7	156.3	158.0	155.4	132.1	133.9	123.2	122.8	123.3
1946	181.8	182.4	177.2	179.0	174.8	148.1	149.2	136.8	136.4	135.1
1947	219.3	222.0	207.6	207.5	203.8	180.4	184.0	158.1	157.1	158.0
Sept. 1948	257.3	257.6	247.8	252.0	246.4	205.8	209.1	186.3	185.6	184.7
Oct. 1948	257.5	257.8	247.8	252.2	246.6	203.8	207.7	186.5	185.8	184.7
Nov. 1948	256.1	256.0	247.8	252.0	246.2	202.7	205.0	186.1	185.6	184.2
1404. 1740	230.1				240.2	202.7		1		104.2
10.00	1074		ease ove			1040		ease ove		
Nov. 1948	107.4	109.2	89.6	88.9	89.2	134.9	146.7	95.7	90.6	94.5
	ST. LOUIS SAN FRANCI				CISC	0				
1920	118.1	121.1	112.1	110.7	113.1	108.8	107.5	115.2	115.1	122.1
1925	118.6	118.4	116.3	118.1	114.4	91.0	86.5	99.5	102,1	98.0
1930	108.9	108.3	112.4	115.3	111.3	90.8	86.8	100.4	104.9	100.4
1935	95.1	90.1	104.1	108.3	105.4	89.5	84.5	96.4	103.7	99.7
1939	110.2	107.0	118.7	119.8	119.0	105.6	99.3	117.4	121.9	116.5
1940	112.6	110.1	119.3	120.3	119.4	106.4	101.2	116.3	120.1	115.5
1941	118.8	118.0	121.2	121.7	122.2	116.3	112.9	120.5	123.4	124.3
1942	124.5	123.3	126.9	128.6	126.9	123.6	120.1	127.5	129.3	130.8
1943	128.2	126.4	131.2	133.3	130.3	131.3	127.7	133.2	136.6	136.3
1944	138.4	138.4	135.7	136.7	136.6	139.4	137.1	139.4	142.0	142.4
1945	152.8	152.3	146.2	148.5	145.6	146.2	144.3	144.5	146.8	147.9
1946	167.1	167.4	159.1	161.1	158.1	159.7	157.5	157.9	159.3	160.0
1947	202.4	203.8	183.9	184.2	184.0	193.1	191.6	183.7	186.8	186.9
Sept. 1948	234.9	238.1	215.7	218.1	215.7	225.2	222.9	215.7	221.3	219.5
Oct. 1948	233.9	236.7	215.9	218.3	215.7	225.6	223.3	216.2	221.7	219.9
Nov. 1948	231.5	233.6	215.5	218.0	215.1	224.2	221.5	215.9	221.5	219.5
			ease ove					ease ove		217.5
Nov. 1948	110.1	118.3	81.6	82.0	80.8	1122		83.9		00 4
1408. 1740	110.1	110.3	01.0	02.0	00.0	112.3	123.1	03.7	01./	88.4

The index numbers shown are for combined material and labor costs. The indexes for each separate type of construction relate to the United States average for 1926–29 for that particular type — considered 100.

Cost comparisons, as percentage differences for any particular type of construction, are possible between localities, or periods of time within the same city, by dividing the difference between the two index numbers by one of them; i.e.: index for city A = 110index for city B = 95

(both indexes must be for the same type of construction).

Then: costs in A are approximately 16 per cent higher than in B.

$$\frac{110-95}{95} = 0.158$$

Conversely: costs in B are approximately 14 per cent lower than in A.

$$\frac{110-95}{110} = 0.136$$

Cost comparisons cannot be made between different types of construction because the index numbers for each type relate to a different U. S. average for 1926-29.

Material prices and wage rates used in the current indexes make no allowance for payments in excess of published list prices, thus indexes reflect minimum costs and not necessarily actual costs.

These index numbers will appear whenever changes are significant.

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REQUIRED READING



The department store's four essential zones. From ''Planning Stores that Pay''

DEPARTMENT STORE PLANNING

Planning Stores that Pay: Organic Design and Layout for Efficient Merchandising. By Dr. Louis Parnes, A.I.A. F. W. Dodge Corp. (119 W. 40th St., New York 18, N. Y.), 1948. 8¼ by 11 in. 314 pp., illus. \$15.00.

Reviewed by WILLIAM LESCAZE

I have just read PLANNING STORES THAT PAY, the new book on department stores by Dr. Louis Parnes. Now, thanks to Dr. Parnes, I can hold my head up, and any architect who takes the trouble to study Parnes' book can do the same, and answer without blushing the inevitable question, "Have you done a store before?" put by a 1949 hoped-for client, Mr. Store Executive, with — "Well, sir, I am an expert in many fields. I am a store expert too." The 15,000 architects of the U. S. should feel as I do, indebted to Parnes.

An architect, in my opinion, can't be much good unless he is an expert in every type of project he is asked to plan, but he does not have to have done a building of that type in the past to be an expert. What makes him an expert is first of all his training in research procedures. For each new type of project, he undertakes research in that particular type. Fundamentally what makes a good architect an expert is his ability to sense, to understand, human needs - all kinds of human needs - to translate these needs into spaces, to organize these spaces into a whole, so that the spaces function, the whole holds together, and the human needs are rightly met.

The other evening an uncle of mine a doctor — and his son, who is studying medicine, were discussing their profession. The son finally declared, "Bill, the more I see of all the branches of medicine, the surer I am that I want to become a general practitioner. That's the true expert of tomorrow." I couldn't help thinking that in the field of architecture, too, the real expert is the general practitioner.

I remember meeting Parnes many years ago. He always was interested in stores' problems. Even then he had already accumulated a great deal of knowledge of them and obviously has expanded it. It is good that he should have made the effort to put it all down on these generously-illustrated 300-odd pages.

Parnes' book obviously will become a "must" for anyone about to tackle a problem of store planning. Quite wisely, right at the beginning - on page 11 -Parnes shows his awareness of the fact that no single building can be an isolated phenomenon in our cities today, that it must be related to other neighboring buildings, to the streets, to that part at least of the city where it is going to stand. He outlines several city planning considerations. I may not agree with all of them, but I am glad that he suggested them and that they are thought-provoking. On page 9 a simple diagram places the whole problem of a department store before the reader; that little diagram (reproduced above) alone deserves a lot of meditation. It shows in abstract form the four essential zones: sales, employees, merchandise, customers. The whole book is more or less divided in accordance with these four major headings.

In the first part — the selling zone many floor plans are reproduced showing equipment layout, showcases, fixtures, chairs, etc. Obviously the oldfashioned way of placing showcases straight up and across the floor in a sort of gridiron-streets pattern is fast disappearing, and a better, more interesting, so-called free-flow arrangement is used instead. Some of the illustrations reminded me of the architectural student who had come to the curious and naïve conclusion that all he had to do in order to be modern was to put some kidney shape somewhere on his drawings. Of course free-flow, free forms are all right. Some of us have been fighting 25 years to get them accepted, but like anything else in good modern architecture, they have to make sense where they are used.

One might not realize — especially if judging from the New York scene where the most recent department store turned out to be such an unimaginative work of architecture — how many new large stores have been built throughout the nation and how definitely all of them have been influenced by modern ideas. One thing which still puzzles me, however, as 1 examine more and more of the floor plans and elevations collected by Parnes is this:

What do store executives hope to achieve when time after time they divorce the two — interior and exterior? They often put construction and exterior in conservative hands and the interior in progressive hands. Would not the result be happier if they were to put the first also in either progressive or at least "sympathetic-to-new-ideas" hands?

I want to end here with two sentences from Parnes as examples of the variety of information contained in his excellent work:

"Logical coordination, not architectural caprice or traditional ideas about symmetry should determine the location and arrangement of special sections." And —

"Men's wear sells best on Saturday, ladies' clothing and household goods on Monday, food on Friday."

SWEDEN'S HOUSING PROGRAM

Sweden Plans for Better Housing. By Leonard Silk. Duke University Press (Durham, N. C.), 1948. 6 by 9 in. xii + 149 pp., illus. \$4.00.

Since interest in cooperative housing has been quickened of late in this country by governmental proddings and private sponsorings (see "The Record Reports" for this month, page 150), Dr. Silk's analysis of housing in Sweden is worth careful study. For that country, of course, is the acknowledged pioneer in the cooperative housing field.

Dr. Silk is concerned, however, not simply with cooperative housing, but with Sweden's entire housing program. As he points out in his introduction, what the Swedes have been doing in the field of housing should be of interest to us here because, "since 1944 over 90 per cent of all new residential building in Sweden has been partly financed by the government, through loans or subsidies," despite the fact that Sweden remains "by and large, a private-enterprise country." Now that the T-E-W bill is almost sure to be passed by Congress, Dr. Silk's analysis of the Swedish program is of special interest. It could happen here.

Despite the numerous illustrations of present-day housing it includes, this book offers but scant description of residential construction in Sweden. Architectural considerations and standards are not its chief concern. What Dr. Silk has done is trace, concisely and chronologically, the social, economic and political evolution of housing in Sweden from the medieval period through the Industrial Revolution and the war years to its present acceptance as a "public utility." The advantages of such a concept are a moot question; the factors that led to it, (Continued on page 30) at concrete floor prices you can get the beauty and durability of tile ____

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*

REQUIRED READING

(Continued from page 28)

and the achievements due to it, however, are an absorbing and revealing comment on the state of the world today.

HOUSING IN CANADA

Houses for Canadians: A Study of Housing Problems in the Toronto Area. By Humphrey Carver. University of Toronto Press (Toronto, Can.), 1948. 6 by 9 in. xiv + 156 pp. \$2.50.

Since the housing situation in Canada and the methods proposed to improve it parallel rather closely the problem and the trend of thought in this country, this analytical study of the Canadian housing scene will be of wide interest to planners here, too.

Mr. Carver's three-year study of the Toronto metropolitan area forms the basis for the conclusions he reaches as to the Dominion as a whole. His chief emphasis, of course, is on the difficulty Canada — like every other country — is experiencing in obtaining adequate rental housing, particularly in the lowerincome brackets. His suggestions as to how this situation may be remedied are worth careful study.

CAMPING FACILITIES

Reprints of Additional Sections of Park and Recreation Structures, published in 1938 by the National Park Service. Available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at the prices listed below.

Architects familiar with the National Park Service's volume, PARK AND REC-REATION STRUCTURES, will welcome the news that additional sections of that book now are available as reprints. The sections recently issued are:

Barriers, Walls and Fences 5¢
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All of these reprints are generously illustrated with photos and plans of facilities in use in parks in many sections of the country. They should be a handy and valuable source of information for any architect planning recreational facilities of a similar nature.

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> Illustration: Greyhound Garage and Service Building under construction, Detroit, Mich. Harley, Ellington & Day, Detroit, Mich., Architects.

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JENKINS Fig. 976-A

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The architect striving to meet a particular need or to achieve a particular effect is the one who uncovers the full potentialities of a material. Thus, architects in trying to bring to their houses such basic advantages of asphalt shingles as economy and fire-resistance, are at the same time realizing new opportunities in design through asphalt's simplicity of line, depth of texture and pleasing massing of color.

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Schematic layout of duct work in the Chicago offices of Container Corporation of America MORTON L. PEREIRA & ASSOCIATES — Architects & Engineers



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1,000 tons of structural steel was saved in the construction of the Prudential Life Insurance building in Los Angeles. This was accomplished because of dead weight savings in structural concrete with light weight pumice aggregate. In addition to a considerable over-all net cash saving in structural cost, many other advantages were realized from the use of pumice. These include thermal insulation, fire resistance and ability to withstand earthquake shock.

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> PRUDENTIAL LIFE INSURANCE BUILDING LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA Walter Wurdeman and Welton Becket Architects Murray Erick Structural Engineer William Simpson Construction Co. General Contractors

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UNIFORM GRADED PUMICE is a name applied only to pumice aggregate produced by members of the Pumice Producers Association. Write your nearest producer for technical data. Additional information is in your 1949 Sweet's Architectural and Engineering files.

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the complete, ready-to-run "central plant" unit for a store—a floor—or a building



5 Every compressor line connection is protected from vibration by bronzeweb flexible couplings. Not only do they eliminate noise, but they assure tight fittings for the life of the unit.



Heavy-duty compressor has well balanced crankshaft, extra large valves, suction oil separator that separates oil and refrigerant. Compressor and driving motor are force-ventilated.



7 Water baffle in evaporative condenser keeps cooling water from being drawn up into blower. Single motor operates blower and water pump. This blower also cools motor and condenser.

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Feature after feature to save you money

Think of this...you buy a complete air conditioning plant as easily as you buy a hot water heater. Every blower, condenser, motor, filter, coil and pipe is connected, charged, tested, balanced and ready to run.

You can forget about costly plumbing layouts and condensing towers. Three simple connections—to ducts, to water, to power—put the Refrigerated Kooler-aire in operation. You slash water supply bills by 95%. You have no expensive water disposal problems. You save on maintenance costs. You get the cheapest air conditioning you've ever heard of . . . yet you get the finest continuous air conditioning you've ever had. You get a completely pre-engineered unit of whatever size you need . . . From 2 to 40 torge comparison of a comparison beautifully finished exhibits

You get a completely pre-engineered unit of whatever size you need ... from 3 to 40 tons capacity ... in a compact, beautifully finished cabinet that puts all your air conditioning machinery in one place, instead of scattering it out from roof to basement.

tering it out from roof to basement. You get every one of the proved features detailed on these two pages . . . features that mean air conditioning economy, efficiency and satisfaction. You'll want to know more about Refrigerated Kooler-aire, and we'll send you complete information as soon as you tell us where to send it.



Refrigerant system is charged and tested in our plant. It is kept in perfect balance by automatic thermal controls that respond instantly even to the most sudden changes of temperature.



2 Blower in evaporative condenser is heavily galvanized *after* fabrication so that even the welds are completely protected from rust and corrosion. Efficient design assures quiet operation.



Two-stage evaporative condenser is integral part of unit. It eliminates oldfashioned water towers and expensive plumbing. It cools refrigerant to within 3 to 5 degrees of wet-bulb reading.



3 All electrical circuits are controlled from this simplified panel. Each of the motor circuits is individually protected against overload or other failure by its own fuse.



Water reservoir and return pump save you 95% of your water bill and practically eliminate costly water disposal problems. Automatic valve replaces evaporation losses.



Twin gauges indicate head pressure

and suction pressure of refrigerant to give you quick assurance that the unit is operating properly, that there's suffi-

cient refrigerant in the system.

10 This name plate on every Refrigerated Kooler-aire is the accepted symbol of the finest in air conditioning equipment...whether you're conditioning a store—a floor—or a building.

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The ideal floor over concrete Bruce Block Floors are quickly installed over concrete by laying in mastic—without nails or splines. No clips, screeds or wood subfloor required.

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Start with the durability, beauty, and long-time economy of hardwood floors. Then add smart, modern design. Doesn't that give you a perfect floor for apartments, homes, schools, offices, stores? That's exactly what you get in a Bruce Block Floor!

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See our catalog in Sweet's Architectural or Builders Files. Or write E. L. Bruce Co., Memphis, Tenn., World's Largest Maker of Hardwood Floors.



Bruce also makes Strip Flooring, Random-width Planks, Hardwood Moulding and Trim, Pine and Hardwood Lumber, Furniture Parts, Ceda'line Closet Lining, Terminix Ventilators, Everbond X Mastic, Terminix, Floor Finish and Maintenance Products.

the NEW Trend in lighting!

LOUVERALL LIGHTING WITH LUMINOUS VINYLITE LOUVERS **CREATES A NEW EXPERIENCE IN SEEING!**

The trend not only is unmistakably to louvered ceilings of light ... but to ceilings with LUMINOUS LOUVERS!

When you experience the lighting effect achieved with luminous louvers it's not hard to understand why those who see it, so overwhelmingly prefer it!

The secret of "Sky-Glo's" superiority is in its exclusive Vinylite (plastic) louvers which not only reflect light but also transmit light.* Thus "Sky-Glo" provides a translucent ceiling that not only affords a means of obtaining more light without annoying glare but actually offers a new experience in seeing!

"Sky-Glo" makes possible these high levels of illumination (in range of 50 to 150 footcandles) with exceptional low brightness (less than 1 footcandle per sq. in.). The result: a soft glareless illumination that makes seeing easy; that creates a restful yet stimulating atmosphere; that makes one completely unaware, visually and psychologically, of the high levels of illumination that are responsible for this "new experience in seeing."

Translucent "Sky-Glo" louvers heighten the beauty of the ceiling and add a scintillating and harmonizing note to the entire decorative scheme. Add to these exclusive advantages of "Sky-Glo" all of the many conventional advantages of the louverall lighting system and you can see why the new trend in lighting is so definitely to Benjamin "Sky-Glo."

BENJAMIN ELECTRIC MFG. CO., Dept. Q-1, Des Plaines, Illinois *Reflection Factor is 19%. Transmission Factor is 71%.

Illustration above—the reception room of Cluett, Peabody and Com-pany, Inc., 10 E, 40th Street, New York, N.Y. Designed by Robert Heller, Industrial Designer, New York City.

Illustration left—Wright Clothing Store, Greensboro, N.C. Designer and Contractor: Starr Electric Co., Greensboro, N.C.

Lower left illustration-Main Banking Area, Central Trust Com-pany, Rochester, N.Y., Consulting Architect, A. G. Alexander, New York City.



Engineers

For complete story and data on one of the most significant developments in fluorescent lighting history in terms of light-ing performance, appli-cations, modernization and maintenance, write for your complimentary copy of Bulletin "SG."



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How to use GLASS

TO TAKE ADVANTAGE of attractive surroundings, picture windows like this are often indicated. Pittsburgh Polished Plate Glass is a superior glazing material for such windows because it is flawlessly transparent and has maximum surface beauty. Twindow, the "Pittsburgh" window with built-in insulation is especially suitable for picture window applications. Architect: Harshaw H. Hay, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

YOU CAN MAKE a small room seem larger --give large rooms an added measure of grace and charm. You can perk up a dull expanse of wall---and please clients in numerous other ways by the judicious use of mirrors. "Pittsburgh" Mirrors are available made from regular Polished Plate Glass and from blue, green or flesh-tinted Plate Glass with silver, gold or gunmetal backing. Designed by A. E. Freudeman, Beverly Hills, Calif.

o advantage in Residences





new direction in housing

- FLOOR DESIGNING has become a more important factor – because of Kentile. Kentile's 23 colors and 5 feature strip colors are combined so easily and economically, in any way desired, that architects are planning floors both original and effective – in perfect harmony with all other elements.
 - **CLEANABILITY** achieves a new meaning with the improved formulation of Kentile-especially in kitchens and foyers.
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 - **POURED CONCRETE** foundations, with or without imbedded radiant heating, are helping to solve America's need for low cost housing and with Kentile on this concrete the house becomes a Home.
 - **REMODELLING** is also more effective today because Kentile can now be applied on sound double wood floors with T & G top boards not over 3" wide.
 - **ECONOMY** is synonomous with Kentile because it is so low priced and installation is so fast and simple.



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Brooklyn 15, N. Y. New York 1, N. Y. Boston 16, Mass. Washington 6, D. C. Kansas City 8, Mo. Chicago 32, III. Atlanta 3, Ga. Cleveland 14, Ohio Denver 4, Colo. Los Angeles 21, Cal. Abor strucou at " Star tect Wil Thr Lef app

Above: a strikingly handsome structure is The Northernaire, country club hotel and spa, at Three Lakes, Wisconsin. Stanley W. Howe, A.I.A., Architect, Monroe, Wisconsin; Cy Williams, designer and builder, Three Lakes, Wisconsin.

"the building is most satisfactory in every respect"

> Left: one of the beautifully appointed bedrooms in The Northernaire.

The famous resort hotel and spa, The Northernaire, at Three Lakes, Wisconsin has steel-framed floors and walls. "Because," owner Carl Marty, Jr. says, "low maintenance cost was essential and the lasting quality of Stran-Steel floor joists and studs was considered more important than initial cost. Stran-Steel framing was the recommendation of our designer and builder, and was immediately available. No condensation, plaster cracking or sound-conduction have developed. The building is most satisfactory in every respect."

Stran-Steel framing members are favored where rigid construction, long life and low upkeep are essential. Yes, if you are planning quality buildings-residential,



, garden type apartments, commercial and industrial structures of not more than three stories – investigate the advantages of Stran-Steel framing.

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Now, we've made it possible for you to hurry without fuming—anytime! We've developed the first elevatoring system ever to be timed to the 6 changing traffic patterns of your business day. It's called AUTOTRONIC Traffic-Timed ELEVATORING because its AUTOmatic and elecTRONIC features match service to traffic throughout your entire day. It's explained interestingly in a new Otis Booklet B-721-F. We'll be happy to send you a copy. Address: Otis Elevator Company, 260 11th Avenue, New York 1, N.Y.

> OTIS . . . first with Electronic Signal Control . . . again first with Traffic-Timed Elevatoring



Cincinnati's new Terrace Plaza Hotel selects American-Standard Plumbing Fixtures

To the long, growing list of the nation's outstanding buildings having American-Standard Plumbing Fixtures, add Cincinnati's newest hotel, the Terrace Plaza.

Here the choice of American-Standard products offered a double advantage.

First, because of the many different styles, sizes and colors offered, the architects had the widest latitude in designing each of the distinctive bathrooms for the 324 luxurious rooms and suites in this ultra modern hotel.

And, secondly, by making it American-Standard "all the way," the owners were assured of uniform quality throughout the entire installation . . . quality that would be reflected not only in the smart styling of the fixtures, but also in their long, troublefree service.

For details about the complete line of plumbing fixtures, as well as information about American-Standard Heating Equipment, consult your Heating and Plumbing Contractor. American Radiator & Standard Sanitary Corporation, P. O. Box 1226, Pittsburgh 30, Pennsylvania.



It's no problem to keep this bathroom clean. The roomy MASTER PEMBROKE BATH has a smooth, heavy coating of acid-resisting enamel on durable cast iron. And the quiet AFTON WATER CLOSET is made of genuine vitreous china. Both fixtures harmonize with the hotel's distinctive atmosphere. Skidmore, Owings & Merrill–Architects Jaros, Baum & Bolles–Engineers Frank Messer & Sons, Inc., Cincinnati–General Contractors E. J. Nolan Corporation, Cincinnati–Plumbing & Heating Contractors Mutual Mfg. & Supply Co., Cincinnati–Wholesale Distributor of Plumbing Fixtures



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STUYVESANT TOWN Gets READY-MADE HEAT via RIC-WIL Insulated Piping

• Yes, everything's right here for the 32,700 people who are housed in this modern, mid-Manhattan community. That's the way the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company planned it.

THIS SPACE RESERVED

FURNACES, BOILERS, FUELS, ASHES, SMOKE, SOOT, GRIME NOT WANTED .. NOR NEEDED!

57 separate apartment buildings, ten to fifteen stories high, shopping areas, parks, playgrounds, underground garages—everything needed for modern living by 11,255 families—without an inch of space used in fuel storage or fuel consumption for comfort heating or service water.

Instead of fuel this modern city takes delivery of the end product it wants—*heat*—in a form that's most convenient for its needs. It thereby minimizes fire hazards. 650 million pounds of steam, produced at the New York Steam Corporation's East River Power Station, is delivered annually to Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village. Underground, throughout the area, there's a network of steam lines distributing this heat to every point where it's needed – in quantities and at pressures required. All of this "ready-made heat in its most convenient form" is distributed underground in these communities in Ric-wiL Insulated Piping Units.

Architect: Irwin Clavan, Consulting Engineers: Meyer, Strong and Jones, General Contractor: Starrett Bros. & Eken, Heating Contractor: Baker, Smith & Company.



"Housing America", a RicwiL book on mass housing and central heating is free to everyone having a bona fide use for it. Write for Form 4804. Address the Ric-wiL Co., Dept. 189.

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The FLAME OF FREE HOUSE....

Co-sponsored by Servel, Inc., and Better Homes and Gardens Magazine, The Flame of Freedom House provides the last word in a modern, moderate-priced home. Thanks to scientific planning and all-gas equipment, it brings new freedom to average-income families—freedom that results in greater comfort, convenience, health, and safety. Yes, freedom has been literally built into the plans. For—in addition to large rooms, abundant light, a picture window, and generous closets—this home is air-conditioned year round by Servel... food is protected night and day by Servel... hot water for every household use is provided around the clock by Servel. You'll find the complete story of the Flame of Freedom House in the February issue of Better Homes and Gardens Magazine.





The Servel ALL-YEAR Gas Air Conditioner

The Flame of Freedom House was especially designed for Servel *All-Year* Gas Air Conditioning. This means that families living there will be forever free from summer heat, winter cold, dirt, draughts, humidity, pollen and prowlers. And yet, this home costs little more than an ordinary home with a good winter heating plant. Planning a house around air conditioning makes many savings possible. No basement excavation is needed. Porch, screens, and storm sashes are eliminated. And the cost of duct work can be held to the minimum.





The Flame of Freedom House was designed by the distinguished architect DAVID SEARCY BARROW as one of the 5-Star Homes (*plan No.* 1902) sponsored by Better Homes & Gardens Magazine. This house was reproduced and demonstrated at the Atlantic City Auditorium during the American Gas Association Convention, October 4-8, 1948.

SEE MODEL AT BUILDERS' SHOW

You can see a model of the Flame of Freedom House in the Servel booths 90-93, at the Builders' Show in Chicago . . . February 20-24. And for a free illustrated booklet, write to Servel, Inc., Evansville 20, Indiana.

The Servel **GAS** Refrigerator

The different Servel Gas Refrigerator certainly occupies a dominant place in the Flame of Freedom House. For this is the only refrigerator that assures owners freedom from the noise and wear of moving parts. That's because Servel doesn't have a single piston or pump, valve or compressor in its entire freezing system. A tiny, silent gas flame does all the work. And, of course, the Gas Refrigerator offers every worthwhile cabinet feature, including a spacious frozen food compartment, moist cold, dry cold, and a big flexible interior.

The Servel BALL-TYPE Gas Water Heater

The presence of the ball-type gas water heater brings freedom from work, worry, delay, drudgery. Based on a new, different operating design, Servel delivers all the hot water needed for modern living's rapidly increasing requirements, including the huge demands of automatic washing appliances. And yet, Servel has a lower operating cost, greater safety and durability than any other heater made. Thus unmatched efficiency and service is the result of Servel's exclusive copper ball tank, internal heat-exchanger, and double insulation.

Newton, Iowa



1000-home project uses KIMSUL* insulation throughout!







Builders choose KIMSUL for its Low Cost — High Insulating Efficiency

Pictured here are three of the 35 different styles of houses being built at Newton, Iowa, employing streamlined construction methods devised by Chief Engineer J. Buford Jenkins. This is a 100% site-prefabricated project. Leaders of the non-profit organization financing it, say the houses will sell for \$8,000-\$10,000. It is expected that 1000 units will be completed within three years—all of them insulated throughout with KIMSUL Whether you're building one house or a thousand, investigate first the many advantages of using KIMSUL insulation. For KIMSUL, with a "k" factor of 0.27, is the only many-layer stitched blanket type of insulation—and that means uniform efficiency over every inch of covered area. No thick spots—no thin spots where heat can leak out. What's more, KIMSUL comes in light, handy, compressed rolls, so it's easier and more profitable to install. No need for skilled workmen or expensive machinery. And KIMSUL is the only insulation with the fire-resistant Pyrogard* cover.

For further information, see your distributor, or write for our free booklet covering the latest techniques in the insulation field.

KIMBERLY-CLARK CORPORATION Neenah, Wisconsin

*T. N. REG. U. S. AND CAN. PAT. OFF.

America's Finest New Homes are insulated with Kimsul!



New G-E Wiring System Offers Unlimited Possibilities In Modern Lighting Control

Multiple Switching from Many Locations Available at Low Installation Cost With G-E Remote Control

Switch your garage lights ON or OFF from any room in your home—in hospitals, give every patient a light switch next to his bed—in industrial plants and commercial buildings, let every night watchman have a centralized bank of switches for all lights in his area. These are just a few of the many possibilities that can be brought about by the new remote control system, recently announced by the General Electric Company.

Easy to Install

Using existing methods for wiring all power circuits, the General Electric remote control system requires no new materials or techniques except in the switching circuit itself. In this circuit a small, low-voltage relay does the actual switching. Control of this relay can be placed practically anywhere in a building, simply by installing lightweight wires from the relay to conveniently located wall switches, specially developed for this purpose. "Easy as wiring a doorbell," is the way one observer described this circuit.

Because this new system cuts the cost of materials used in multi-switch applications, because it makes possible a large number of controls on any individual circuit, General Electric remote control clears the way for wide use of multiswitch control in structures of all types.

Keeps Costs Down

In residential wiring, this new system means real "dream-home" electrical control even in residences where costs must be cut to the bone. Simple applications include the example of garage lights given above—also attic fan and cellar light controls in various parts of the house. In the completely modern house, all lights and outlets can be controlled from various locations.

Here are the essential components of the new General Electric remote control system: the switch, the small transformer (not shown), the relay, and the lightweight No. 18 wire. All accessories necessary for the system are manufactured by General Electric and sold through your General Electric Construction Materials distributor. In dormitories, institutions, and commercial buildings, General Electric remote control can provide an effective centralized system for lighting control. Wherever "lights-out" regulations are in effect, a master panel of remote control switches can be used to enforce these regulations for an entire building or a whole floor. In commercial structures or plants, a similar system can be used to turn out lights left on after hours. Commercial and industrial operations can profit by the over-all multi-switch control offered by this system.

Offers New Ideas

To everyone concerned with building and remodeling, this new system offers a completely new range of ideas on flexibility in the use of electricity. To the architect, it means a new era in electrical convenience in structures of all sizes and types. To the buyer and the investor, it means increased workability and extra value, now and in the years to come. To the electrical contractor, General Electric remote control offers a vast, new field for his services.

To answer questions on the applications of General Electric remote control—to explain the procedure and the materials required—the General Electric Company has prepared an informative booklet on the subject. This booklet is a valuable guide for everyone interested in this new system. To get your copy early, simply fill out the coupon and mail it today.



A BLENDED PART OF THE BUILDING'S DESIGN

The new Grinnell Quartzoid Ceiling Sprinkler combines full standard protection with almost unnoticeable appearance. This new head protrudes only 1" below ceiling yet provides coverage for both ceiling and floor area. All piping is hidden above the plaster or acoustic panels. Approved by Underwriters' Laboratories.

PUZZLE: Look for the new built-in fire protection!

It's hard to spot... for the *new* GRINNELL QUARTZOID CEILING SPRINKLER blends perfectly with modern architectural treatments, yet it provides the same trustworthy fire protection that has typified all Grinnell Sprinklers for the better part of a century. For the sake of preserving the beauty of your interiors, consider this new unobtrusive Grinnell Sprinkler, and consider it while your plans are still in the drafting stage! Get in touch with Grinnell, for there is a Grinnell System of Protection to meet the requirements of every type of commercial, industrial and institutional building. Grinnell engineers, long experienced in working with architects, are always ready to help you. Grinnell Company, Inc., Providence 1, R. I. Branch offices in principal cities.

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Hydro-Flo Heating

gives each tenant gives of temperature



PLUS AMPLE HOT WATER ALL YEAR 'ROUND

75°

The Water Heater unit of a B & G Hydro-Flo System furnishes abundant hot water, night and day, summer and winter. It is heated by the same boiler that heats the building.



The simplicity of B & G Hydro-Flo Heating equipment assures dependable operation and insignificant maintenance. Basic units consist of a B & G Booster Pump, Flo-Control Valve, Water Heater and Monoflo Fittings.

Temperature regulation in apartment houses has always been notoriously inadequate—resulting in tenant discomfort and extravagant waste of fuel. B & G Hydro-Flo Heating—a forced hot water system—provides an easy solution to the problem.

The apartment house illustrated here was constructed with a B & G *Hydro-Flo* System, divided into twelve heating zones. Each apartment was served by a separate zone; hence, each tenant could set his thermostat for any desired temperature without affecting the comfort of other building occupants.

B & G Hydro-Flo Heating adds further to comfort by its sensitive control of the heat supply. It automatically changes the rate of heating to meet changes in the weather ... saves fuel so often wasted by overheating.

There are no limitations to the application of B & G Hydro-Flo Heating. This forced hot water system is being used today on a nation-wide scale in small low-cost homes, factories, institutions and commercial buildings.





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CONT

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ARCHITECTURAL

RECORD

CODES, COSTS AND STANDARDS

WHILE architects, engineers, builders, manufacturers and building officials have long been aware of the burden of the obsolete, inflexible, specification-type building codes, it is only recently that the public has become aware of the necessity for radical change and politicians have taken up the cry. Newspapers in the past few months have headlined at least one governor's demands for a new code to reduce costs, especially in view of expanding public housing and school building programs. An era of new freedom for the development of more efficient, economical building materials, techniques and administration is about to be ushered in.

A universal performance code will mean a new freedom for manufacturers to develop materials, have them tested once and then approval given for use on a national instead of a local basis: a new freedom for architects, engineers and builders to devise new ways to design assemblies of materials rationally, economically and imaginatively. The "performance" type code will perform still better its prime function of safeguarding the public from the structural, mechanical, fire, sanitation and use hazards of buildings.

Three things are necessary if the universal, uniform building code is to be adopted and effective — (1) The code must be of the performance type, setting standards "to meet the functional requirements of structures in terms of their intended use"; (2) the code must set standards for tests of material, equipment and their assemblies; (3) the code must set standards for administrative procedures. (ARCHITECTURAL RECORD, March 1946.)

One such code is becoming a reality under the auspices of the Building Officials Conference of America, Inc., which has now released its abridged code for use by smaller communities. Their master code is scheduled to appear this year. The National Board of Fire Underwriters, which has published suggested codes since 1905, has just issued its 1949 edition, based on performance requirements.

A performance code demands a most important next step, for it creates the need for an organization which will function in the testing and approval of materials and assemblies. The duties of the organization would range from the setting up of testing standards, methods, and procedure, to evaluating test results and determining performance ratings, and finally to disseminating such information and interpreting it. Present organizations and facilities within the industry should be coordinated for these purposes rather than attempting to create and impose a new governmental agency to carry out these functions. Pending legislation on housing (which will probably involve far-reaching sections relating to standards and research) should be examined to see that it augments rather than contravenes ths work already accomplished toward a uniform performance code. The time is ripe for the adoption of such a code throughout the country, and the building industry's own facilities and know-how should be employed to the full in setting the standards, in testing and in interpreting.

Serveth K. Stowell FDITOR





Damora

A HOUSE FITTED TO THE BERKSHIRE HILLS

Marcel Brever

ARCHITECT

It is by the resolution of strong opposites that this house gains its character. Breuer as architect avoids easy rustic "blending"; on a magnificent site outside Williamstown, Mass., he has pitted strong geometry against the big Berkshire hills. Yet the butterfly rooflines echo the hills; and by means of long stone fences or parapets the architect has "run the building out" and tied it in with the ground.

A sports-loving, skiing family asked to have virtually no barriers between itself and the great out-of-doors. Quartz-stone parapets are intended to act as psychological retainers *outside* the big glass walls, and keep the space from "floating away." Despite the simplicity of the large house forms, and the unity of the work, the space cadences are highly multiplex.

The plan is an H-shaped, or "bi-nuclear" one, with the living room to the north and east (for view) instead of south (for sun); but the dining room is virtually a southern extension.

Materials are boldly contrasted: multi-hued tapestries of rusty-toned field stone against smooth, natural golden cypress, against subtly painted sheets and lines of trim, in light grays, blues, greens, yellows — and even an off-white pink — playing with the polished glass.





Here's a ''bi-nuclear'' H-plan turned ninety degrees for views north, east, west. The patio entrance arrangement, to the south, is worth special study. Garage, main entrance, kitchen entrance are closely grouped but service areas segregated nonetheless. The living room, to the right of the entrance, turns a corner around a head-high bar and china closet, to become the dining room. "Passthrough" arrangements between dining space and kitchen have been strictly avoided. The north suite of the bedroom wing, to the left in the plan, is the master bedroom, with dressing room and bath to the west, and to the south a miniature sitting room and study with fireplace. The next suite is the daughter's and the bottom suite the guest's. From the entrance court to the garden court there is a glimpse right through the connecting corridor into the garden court off the master bedroom



Damora

Visitors have found the entrance patio one of the most successful features of the house. From the garage (seen across-page) the way leads through a blue-stoned paved court (glimpsed at the left in the view above) to the entrance door (again at the left, in the view below). To the west the court is firmly defined and held by the garage stone wall and roof overhang; to the east it drops gradually away past the glazed kitchen wall (below) and successive stone walls, ever widening the area. As the entrance door is opened, there is suddenly another big vista, across the corridor and through the garden court to the north







Damora

The big visor facing the east originated in the owners' desire for a generous "unscreened porch." It admits cheerful sun, mornings; shades the terrace, afternoons. Breuer explains the sharp cleft, or well, near the middle of the overhang, as a device of multiple service: it carries a sense of the sky into the room; it encourages convection currents on still days, and funnels out storm winds which might otherwise threaten both the roof and the glass. In the larger horizontal view above may be glimpsed one of the clerestories (one for each wing) which admit more sky and light, and add another dimension of freedom in space







The little postage stamp view (left) repeats the color illustration on the Record cover, showing the north end of the living room. (At the extreme left on this cover picture is the piano.) The fireplace capitalizes the rusty local quartz. Ceiling is polished birch plywood. Floor is carpeted with Haitian rush matting. Glass wall is full curtained with fiberglas fabric, and cove light (detailed overleaf) is reflected from plywood covering the truss. Desk is situated in the sitting-room study off the master bedroom



ARCHITECTURAL RECORD





The little pantry leading into the dining room is also a compact office. The owner's wife enjoys the magnificent view as she sits at her linoleum-topped work desk with telephone (top view). Through the kitchen (top right) she can observe the entrance. The kitchen has built-in cabinet work aligned to the electric stove under metal casement windows lused throughout the house). Above is an acoustic-tiled ceiling and glass clerestory. Like all fixed-glass openings, this is double plate glass (Twindow). The floor, like all floors except living room and bedrooms, is hotwaxed flagstone (in this instance, bluestone). Breuer believes this is the floor easiest to maintain; with radiant heating by copper coils under the floor (all through the house) it is warm in winter, cool underfoot in summer; and it carries right on through into the out-of-doors in places such as the forecourt, establishing space interpenetrations.

As a final view, the stone-wall sculpture seen below is the humble laundry and drying yard, with a drain at the center of its stone pavement; it lies adjacent to the kitchen, and the flagstones lead to the entrance patio or forecourt Damora







PLAN A-A

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Simplicity in the millwork makes it possible to handle a diversity of roof shapes and cpenings without strain. In the sections seen above (and especially in the enlarged detail at the lighting coves) there may be noted a single wooden profile which is used singly or doubled in a great variety of situations, as head- or side-jamb or as mullion, by being combined with a single thickness of casing board and another stock thickness of window-stop. Circled details show ingenious combination of window head, light cove and curtain track.

Detail at bottom of this page shows bookcase and storage space; on opposite page, special storage making it easy to use recorded music and sheet music

5'-6"







Signing New York's wage stabilization agreement are, from left to right, Howard McSpedon, president of the Building and Construction Trades Council; Theodore Kheel, then director of New York City's Division of Labor Relations; and Fred J. Driscoll, chairman of the Building Trades Employers' Association Committee

WAGE STABILIZATION STIMULATES BUILDING

Labor and management organizations signed a wage stabilization agreement in New York that has worked and is working in spite of rising costs, and may well set a pattern in other cities that will encourage investors to undertake actual building *now*

MORE than a year has passed since an unprecedented wage stabilization agreement was entered into by the Building Trades Employers' Association of New York City, representing 23 trade associations and a thousand contractors, and the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York and Long Island, representing approximately 200,000 A.F. of L. craftsmen.

The apparent effectiveness of the wage stabilization agreement in stimulating construction in the New York area, as evidenced by the increasing number of multimillion dollar projects underway on firm bid contracts, indicates a successful pattern of labor-management relations in the building industry that could be emulated by other cities.

The New York wage stabilization agreement is unique in several respects. It was an outgrowth of the Master Agreement, signed February 11, 1947, and required seven months of arduous negotiation between a five-man committee representing the B.T.E.A. and officials of 41 grade classifications in the Building Trades Council to consummate.

The preamble to the agreement sets the pace and epitomizes the desires of both parties. It says: "The parties to this agreement desire to insure a continuance of the harmonious and amicable relations now existing between labor and management in the building construction industry of the New York City area and desire to insure stabilization for the period hereinafter named of the rates of wages, hours and days of employment, and other terms and conditions of employment in order to induce construction and confidence in the construction industry."

Two of the outstanding articles of the agreement deal with productivity and apprenticeship training. In one, the union leaders subscribed to this statement: "They shall use their best efforts in the public's interest to increase production and reduce costs by maintaining maximum man-hour output and to use all machinery, tools, appliances, or methods, which may be practical." This forthright statement was not embodied in the old Master Agreement. (ARCHITECTURAL RECORD, May, 1946.)

In regard to apprentices, the agreement provides that: "The several trade associations and the several trade unions shall jointly maintain apprenticeship systems which will provide an adequate force of skilled mechanics." The fact that today more apprentices are in training in the building trades in the New York area than ever before in history attests to the desires of labor and management to live up to the agreement.

The unique cost of living formula is another outstanding difference between the stabilization plan and the Master Agreement. In the latter agreement, provision was made for the reopening of wage negotiations each year during the life of the agreement. In contrast, the wage stabilization plan firmly fixes wages from January 1, 1948 to June 30, 1950, except for an unusual rise in the cost of living.

The formula provides that if the cost of living index in April, 1949, as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, has increased *more* than 15 per cent over January, 1948, then the wage scale of each trade will be increased by one-half of the percentage rise above the 15 per cent. The increase would become effective, July 1, 1949 for the last six months of the agreement.

The wisdom of this formula, subscribed to by labor and management more than a year ago, is borne out by events. There is virtually no possibility that the cost of living index will reach the 15 per cent increase in the next two months. This means that present wage scales will continue through June 30, 1950. Contractors can figure labor costs today, confident that the rates will hold for at least another 18 months. This factor alone is a major contribution to a stabilized building industry.

After a year's testing in a period of rising prices, has the agreement been effective? Has it served to create an environment for investors to start long delayed building; does it help level off over-all building costs? An official answer comes from Mayor William O'Dwyer of New York City. Commenting on a joint progress report on the wage stabilization agreement, submitted to the Mayor recently by officials of the B.T.E.A. and the Building Trades Council, Mr. O'Dwyer said:

"Both employees and contractors have had difficult and serious problems to overcome . . . (but) stabilization of wages and the leveling off on material prices now make possible firm bids that do away with possible rises that adversely affect contracts . . . It is important to note that these gentlemen, under trying circumstances brought about chiefly by rising costs, have done a remarkably fine job.

"This stabilization applies only in New York City and no place else in the nation. The City is grateful to them for their help in making it possible for the City to plan its future building program."

The progress report was submitted to Mayor O'Dwyer by Peter W. Eller, chairman of the board of governors of the B.T.E.A., and Howard McSpedon, president of the Building Trades Council. Emphasizing that without stabilization, responsible contractors could not risk bids on work which of necessity involved long time planning and a long time for building, the report said:

"After many months of hard negotiation the Building Trades Employers' Association and its constituent trade associations and thirty-odd trades of the Building and Construction Trades Council signed an agreement called, and truly, a stabilization agreement, which fixed wages for two and one-half years from January 1, 1948 to June 30, 1950. This represented something new in collective bargaining.

"With or since such agreement there have been parallel agreements with several trades who could not or would not become signators to the stabilization agreement. Only two trades have not yet fixed their wages on the agreed formula to June 30, 1950. This agreement fixes wages not only for the 1000 members of the B.T.E.A., but for all who contract for building construction in this area. There is, therefore, stabilization of wages until June 30, 1950, or foreseeable wage differences for all who build . . .

"It was not easy for the employers in the face of existing contracts, outstanding bids, obligations to their customers and other conditions, to agree to immediate wage increases as part of the stabilization agreement. It was not easy for leaders of the labor unions with whom there has been collective bargaining for more than fifty years to accept a long term agreement in the face of rising living costs. We are confident that our labor leaders and their unions will hold the line and we are hopeful that the stabilization agreement or its formula will cover the few trades not yet in agreement . . .

"Informed opinion in the industry holds that there is no reasonable expectancy that costs will decline in the year or more ahead. We believe that the report should inspire confidence in our contractors and their labor forces and should encourage construction now." All segments of the industry — architects, engineers, builders, labor and material suppliers — have been much subjected to severe criticism since the end of the war, much of the criticism unfair and stemming from a misguided public which has not been fully informed on the problems and achievements of the complex building industry. Now, there is talk of a fourth round of wages increase in manufacturing and industrial plants. If permitted, the costs of building materials and equipment are likely to increase.

However, New York City finds itself in an enviable position in regard to building labor in the field. With wages frozen until June 30, 1950 and all indications that the union leaders will hold the line, there is little likelihood that the wage pattern will be upset. This factor alone underscores the advantages of effective collective bargaining between enlightened management and labor in the public interest.

A stabilized wage scale is a major contribution toward a stabilized industry. Both labor and management have a big stake in such stability, and with building costs reaching a postwar plateau, an increase in building means more jobs and a stronger, more efficient industry.

After the long months of bargaining which gave birth to the agreement, comments of the two co-chairmen of the negotiating committees express the enlightened attitude of labor and management.

Howard McSpedon, president of the Building Trades Council: "The agreement is unprecedented in many respects and there are many benefits to the industry, labor, and the public generally. The building mechanics are proud of their part in bringing about the accord."

Fred J. Driscoll, chairman of the B.T.E.A. committee: "The agreement is a major step toward stabilizing over-all building costs in Metropolitan New York and should help stimulate a higher level of housing and commercial construction."

BTEA Committee which negotiated the wage stabilization agreement after seven months of collective bargaining with union officials representing the 200,000 building craftsmen in the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York and Long Island. From the left: William G. Wheeler, secretary of the B.T.E.A.; August P. Petrillo; Fred J. Driscoll, chairman; Robert B. Miller; and Roger H. Corbetta



Electronics Headquarters Group for General Electric Company

Giffels & Vallet, Inc., L. Rossetti, Engineers and Architects

ELECTRONICS PARK, SYRACUSE, NEW YORK



LEGEND

- 1. Reception
- 2. Cafeteria
- 3. Laboratory
- 4. Receiver
- 5. Specialties

- 6. Boiler House
- 7. Service
- 8. Transmitter
- 9. Administration
- 10. Bus Station

R^{EVERSING} many of the familiar concepts of industrial developments, the electronics headquarters of the General Electric Company has combined electronics research and manufacturing in a campus scheme in a parklike setting, such as it has long had at Nela Park for lighting.

Instead of the usual huge manufacturing building, designed for concentration of processes and anticipating considerable expansion, Electronics Park divides its manufacturing activities in separate buildings for three distinct divisions, in none of which is expansion contem-

Gottscho-Schleister Photos

plated. While there is one general office building, each of the manufacturing divisions also has a separate office building. Research is concentrated in the Laboratory Building; and two other buildings — Reception and Cafeteria — group together various employee facilities.

This general *parti* is explained by the fact that Electronics Park is a nerve center for electronics; there are more than a score of manufacturing plants for electronic equipment scattered over the country. Such scattering grew out of wartime expansion, but it also follows a GE policy of dispersion of facilities. The Park, then, is



RECEPTION BUILDING

CAFETERIA BUILDING

BOILER HOUSE



Gottscho-Schleisner Photos







designed for 6,000 employees — this figure came from a study of available labor — and when manufacturing activities outgrow their portion of the Park they will be expanded with new plants elsewhere, or moved bodily. In general manufacturing activities at this headquarters will be those which need the most laboratory research (television for a current example). Transmitters and Specialties are the other manufacturing divisions now here, and these are likely to remain close to the research engineers.

Within the dictates of the campus concept the designers worked to achieve efficiency and flexibility in the individual buildings. The original design for the entire project was developed in a modular system of brick and masonry, but at that time brick and other manufacturers were not ready for full-scale production of modular materials. It was necessary to change all details and dimensions to conform to old standards. It was still possible, however, to standardize on two-foot piers and six-foot windows in all laboratory and office sections.

These units permitted a basic space module of four ft., with offices or laboratories 8, 12, 16 ft., and so on.

Flexibility in space use is maintained by standardization on metal partitions and metal pan acoustic ceilings, with lighting on four-foot centers and air diffusers and sprinkler heads at eight ft. Air conditioning units



RECEPTION BUILDING

Reception Building is a multi-purpose building for visitors and employees. Here are show spaces for the products of the division, health and recreation facilities for workers, and a large auditorium useful for everything from theory lectures in radio engineering or demonstrations to visiting sales organizations to employee gatherings. The ''camp'' chairs shown make it easy to clear the floor



TYPICAL REFLECTED CEILING PLAN



Gottscho-Schleisner Photos



The typical office bay (above) measures 16' by 22'-41/2'' (column centers), has movable steel partitions and steel panel walls, metal pan acoustic ceiling and recessed fluorescent lighting. Virtually everything is movable and salvageable; permanent fixtures are on 4- or 8-ft. centers to match the space module

110





ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

While each of the three manufacturing units has its own office building, the Administration Building houses general offices of the Electronics Division (office of vice-president W. R. G. Baker below). Other office sections have the same module, the same finish and equipment; the Laboratory Building follows these general standards except in layout and equipment



under windows have removable metal panel fronts, so that interior wall and ceiling coverings are virtually 100 per cent interchangeable and salvageable. The steel cellular floor system provides full flexibility for wiring and other services.

Exterior walls are of iron spot, buff brick, with einder block back-up, and Mankato stone trim, sills, copings and entrances. All sash are aluminum, and, since all buildings are completely air conditioned, all sash are fixed, without ventilators. All pitched roofs are of copper, on $1\frac{1}{2}$ -in. insulation board and precast concrete roof tile.

All manufacturing buildings were originally intended to have solid brick walls, but a shortage of brick masons drove the designers to something else. The wall used is of metal sheet in mansard type, with $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. of insulation, painted to match the brick work (detail on p. 102).

Flexibility was of especial importance in the manufacturing buildings, because it is virtually certain that operations will see many changes. In both the transmitter and specialty plants, present processes and foreseeable future ones appeared to be best suited to 50-ft. bays across the building and 40-ft. bays the other way. In the receiver building (television) the layout pointed to 45-ft. spans across and 50 ft. lengthwise. Trusses







CAFETERIA BUILDING

The cafeteria building, located roughly in the center of the "campus," has cafeteria for plant employees, dining room for engineers (who comprise 10 per cent of all employees) and executives. There are also private rooms for visitors and meetings



TRANSMITTER BUILDING

Due to a shortage of brick layers, manufacturing buildings depart from the standard brick finish with a more modern type of wall (section below). Wall is a mansard type sheet metal, with 11/2 in. of insulation with some brick panels for relief









Above, one of the small laboratories. Below, the testing of the welded trusses before they were incorporated in the building. Note the hydraulic jacks between the pairs of trusses to produce the test loading to determine deformation (upper truss inverted to apply loading at same points as on lower truss)



RECEIVER

Like other manufacturing buildings, the receiver section has inside railroad and truck docks. The 135 acres of the park require $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of track and $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles of paved road so that trains and trucks may reach incoming and outgoing docks



Gottscho-Schleisner Photos

of the Warren type were designed originally for riveting, but it was later decided to use welding for all, and the connections were redesigned. Since the designs and connections began to get somewhat complicated, the engineers insisted on testing some of the trusses under load, to be sure that the intricate welded connections performed as anticipated. Three pairs of trusses were tested, the two in each pair opposing each other, with the load applied by hydraulic jacks between the two (photograph on p. 102). When everybody was satisfied, the designs were approved; the test trusses came through without any impairment and were used in the actual construction.

All of the buildings in the group are completely air conditioned. For the office building a unique design was developed to utilize GE window air conditioning units in conjunction with a conventional central fan system. Air is distributed, through wall grilles and ceiling diffusers from a central fan station, at a constant adjustable temperature normally set near the desired room temperature. Additional air called "primary air" is supplied to the window units, also from the central station. All air is returned through corridors to the central unit, where it is exhausted and replaced with 100 per cent outside air.

The bulk of the building's heat gain or loss is covered by the window units, circulating hot or chilled air as required, the wall and ceiling outlets handling mainly ventilation. Principal controls are arranged in a zone system for each building, but there are modifying controls on each window unit.

In the manufacturing areas the system is more conventional, with conditioned air supplied from central units at various points on the roofs. Air is discharged downward from ducts in the truss space. Small unit heaters around outside walls boost heating in severe weather. The Receiver Building is the only one housing a real assembly line. The one below is one of three now rushing assembly of television receivers. A girl at each station takes less than a minute to add her little contribution of parts





David Fried, Architect

CAPE COD COTTAGE STYLED FOR SUMMER

Cottage for Mrs. Ruth Boardman, "Saltboxes," South Yarmouth, Massachusetts



CAPE Cod in summer is as mild and delightful as it is blustery and cold in winter. So a house designed primarily for a sunny summer vacation can and should be quite different from the traditional snug, tight and tidy cottage. This house therefore makes the most of sun, breeze and view, opening the main rooms to the south, the services to the north. The clerestory invites a pine-scented air flow through the rooms, as well as added light. The kitchen, or galley, is small and doubles as a passage for economy's sake — not an objectionable feature where informal living is the rule. A forced warm air heating system is provided for, with a duct along the ceiling of the corridor serving all rooms.



Haskell Photos

The east terrace-porch is frequently used for dining, served through the utility room. Below, a broad roof overhang on the south side shields the living and bed rooms from too much sun or rain and the pines provide shade for outdoor living. Exterior, vertical T & G local pine, painted white



The plan is simple and direct, permitting easy, economical construction and straight-line mechanical equipment. Storage is both ample and strategically placed, even ''functionally segregated.'' The living room day-beds can serve overnight guests, but if an additional room is ever needed the carport could be converted. The separate shower room and lavatory are convenient and desirable





Haskell Photos





Natural-finish local pine boards form attractive living room walls. The ceiling is painted a soft yellow-green and the upholstery is sienna, chartreuse and brick red. Window drapery has a yellow and tan leaf pattern on a gray-green background. The plaid wallpaper of the bedroom is a Dorothy Liebes design in sand and green, bedspread a deep green, rug sand-color, and drapery off-white. The yacht-chair adds a note of coral



The kitchen ceiling and one wall are of sheetrock painted a persimmon color which is found also in the plaid of the white and yellow curtains. Other walls are finished in natural pine. Lilian E. Kenrick was the interior decorator

A P A R T M E N T S

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD'S BUILDING TYPES STUDY NUMBER 146



SKIP-FLOOR CORRIDOR PLANS — a promising trend — by Julian Whittlesey BIBLIOGRAPHY ON SKIP-FLOOR APARTMENTS

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BROWN

DE MARS







Shortly before Thanksgiving, 1948, two venerated New England institutions announced the joint construction of "the most unusual apartment building in America." (Record, Jan., 1949, p. 88)

With this "Eastgate" scheme, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the New England Mutual Life Insurance Company had broken a log jam. Actual construction was begun on a plan type only striven for in the U. S., though found occasionally in Europe.

In effect, it stacks a series of long three-story row houses, or "flats," on top of one another in a "strip" plan, a highly intriguing architectural idea.

Elevator banks are widely separated. By a "skipfloor" scheme elevators open at every third floor to long access corridors, which run either through the center of the building, or along one side, past every apartment door. Other floors are reached from the corridor floor by auxiliary stairs.

Occupants derive from this scheme certain strong advantages hitherto peculiar to non-elevator row houses. Every apartment has one exposure to the most favored orientation. Non-corridor apartments, situated on two floors out of three, have two opposite exposures, one at each face of the narrow, slab-like building. They therefore also enjoy full through ventilation.

Site planners gain the chance to use buildings shaped as long thin vertical slabs, indefinitely extendable, as a welcome relief from our ubiquitous cross shapes.

Being designed for actual execution, Eastgate has a case history almost ideal for a Building Type Study; and the wonderful cooperation of the two institutions and the architects has made available full material.

As stimulus to further development, Julian Whittlesey, architect of many advanced apartments in New York, analyzes the history of the plan type, suggests code revisions needed in some cities to clear the way.

	ARCHITECTS-ENGINEERS FOR EASTGATE
ARCHITECTS	William Hoskins Brown (liaison) Carl Koch Robert Woods Kennedy
	Vernon DeMars Ralph Rapson Dan Kiley (landscaping)
ENGINEERS	Thomas Worcester, Inc., Architects & Engineers
	Thomas Worcester, Pres. (no photo) William Davies, Architect
NOTE:	The architects have acknowledged a special obligation to William W. Wurster, Dean

of the School of Architecture and Planning, M.I.T., for advice and counsel



WILLAUER



CHIEF CONSULTANTS

George Willard Smith, Pres., New England Mutual Life Insurance Co.

James A. Killian, Jr., Pres., M.I.T.

A. O. Willauer, Architectural Consultant to New England Mutual

D. P. Appell, Vice-Pres., George A. Fuller Co.

Burnham Kelly, Director of Bemis Foundation at M.I.T.

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Richard J. Olds (New York)

Charles N. March (Boston)
For the New England Mutual Life Insurance Co.

and Massachusetts Institute of Technology



INVESTMENT SAFETY DEMANDED IMPROVED PERFORMANCE

A SAFE long-term investment was what New England Mutual Life was looking for. In the field of rental housing, especially, it seemed to shrewd President George Willard Smith that safety lay in being ahead of the procession.

In this field (opened to life insurance companies in Massachusetts by 1945 legislation) high costs could be recovered and written down only by prolonged highclass demand, staving off obsolescence.

In March 1947, when A. Osborne Willauer, architectural adviser employed especially for housing research, discovered that Massachusetts Institute of Technology desired faculty housing, the directors saw opportunity. M.I.T. was another solid institution; it exercised an enormous attraction as a cultural center; its site on the Charles River Basin was superb.

Of more general significance to architects was the reasoning which said that "joining forces with M.I.T. would enable the best technical brains in America to go to work on this particular project." Early May, 1947, a sketch (above) by Vernon DeMars of the M.I.T. architectural school had been checked by Vice-President David Appell of George A. Fuller Co. acting as consultant. Mr. Appell's cost estimate, if prorated to final number of apartments, was 5 per cent higher than Fuller's present guaranteed cost for the finished building. On recommendation of Dean W. W. Wurster of the M.I.T. School of Architecture and Planning there was set up a collaborative planning method. A group of imaginative young staff members were to act as architects and planners; the old and experienced engineering firm of Thomas Worcester, Inc. furnished engineers plus the wise trained mind of William Davies, its own architect; and the insurance company was represented by far-seeing and tactful A. O. Willauer, its home-office architectural adviser. Richard S. Olds of New York and Charles N. March of Boston were called in as real estate management consultants.

The desire of the insurance client was that this, its first and prototype housing investment project, be based on something "pretty tried and true as to future demand." It was thought that analysis during the war "might have brought forth some new plans thathad proved to be of service meeting housing demands elsewhere," and were "in advance of current thinking." On a 1938 trip abroad, President Smith had already looked admiringly — and carefully — at the many balcony apartments in Amsterdam and Stockholm; on talking with bankers and insurance heads in those cities he had discovered that a great many of them lived personally in just such apartment dwellings, finding them eminently practical and livable.

Instead of selling the land, M.I.T. leased to New England Mutual, for 60 years, a $2\frac{1}{3}$ acre tract at the eastern end of its campus — hence the name "Eastgate."

Analysis soon established the desirable size in the range of 1000 rooms; and on this particular site, city planners gave this high density their approbation (page 112). How the plans ultimately developed may be studied on succeeding pages.

Meanwhile New England Mutual had done its own research on investment housing. Compared to bond investments, rental housing has a procession of management problems associated with it, justifying higher returns. High building costs tend to cut these down. The splendid site, the assured sources of occupancy, and expert planning "in advance of current thinking," could offset many managerial problems but not the high costs. New England Mutual decided to reduce their effect by a high rate of amortization during the initial period. In other words, the company would restrict its earnings during that time to a rate about midway between the returns on government bonds and superior private bonds, and devote the remainder of its cash income to writing down book value. (In current figures, this would seem to indicate earnings of about 3 per cent, between the normal $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent rate on good bonds or $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on government bonds.) After perhaps ten years of such amortization it would therefore be possible to lower rents and still obtain a justified return with safety.

ARCHITECTURAL OBJECTIVES GUIDED ALL THE PLANNING



1. OUTDOOR LIVING

—was carefully developed in close conjunction with indoor living, by careful treatment of grounds and roof space, and by a balcony off every living room, pulling in the distant sky

0

2. SUN AND VIEW

-fortunately were on the same side. The aim was to obtain direct sunlight for every living room, dining space, kitchen, during a large share of the day; and to give every apartment at least one view extending well beyond adjacent buildings.

3. PRIVACY AND SPACIOUSNESS

-were sought by a building shape that opened up all "re-entrant angles" where neighbors might face one another across a corner; and by apartments in the best tradition of open planning

5. OPTIMUM STORAGE FACILITIES

—were sought for in the building plans, to permit the family conveniently to store its car, its baby carriage, and other necessities of family life

6. SIMPLE CONSTRUCTION

—was sought through repetition of standard bays, with a minimum of turns and angles in the building plan. Because apartment plans differed on the corridor floors from those on non-corridor floors, the vertical alignment of service elements required extra thought

7. CODE AND ZONING COMPLIANCE

-were essential in a scheme that was anything but academic. Actually, the architects were able to design their scheme to the Cambridge code without being obliged to make a single appeal



4. THROUGH VENTILATION

—was assured, for a majority of apartments, by the absence of corridors on two floors out of three. No other plan type has yet been developed capable of giving this advantage to so many occupants at moderate rentals

8. SPECIAL NOTE ON CODES

Requirements affecting the "skip-floor and access corridor" type of plan vary considerably from city to city. On page 124, Julian Whittlesey outlines a code revision, which architects can submit where needed

PRELIMINARY SITE STUDIES-SUN AND VIEW FOR ALL

Among schemes studied and rejected on this particular site are some with more than local interest.

The site offered a unique river view. This, however, merely gave the architects a still stronger incentive to do what was right anyhow. Rigorously excluding all north exposures for any living room, and refusing to accept any north wing of the building that would be shaded by an east-west wing, they obtained not only a generous river view for every occupant but also a generous share of direct sunlight.





AGAINST: Small number of ap'ts created

No through ventilation for western court Lack of privacy for ap'ts at re-entrant angle of main wing No connection between garden areas FOR: Adequate number of ap'ts Main block and south wing O.K. as to sun, view, privacy AGAINST: Little or no sun for some ap'ts at top left of east wing Poor view from same ap'ts Lack of privacy at re-entrant angles between main wing and east wing



FINAL PLOT PLAN SCORED HIGH

Listing the qualities of the site plan finally accepted, the architects were able to balance as follows:

FOR: A view of the river was obtained from living rooms of all apartments.

Sunlight to all apartments.

Good privacy at junctures of building wings was obtained by the "breezeway" connection between the south wing and main wing, giving greater separation; and by the openness of the re-entrant angle at the juncture of the east wing with the main wing.

Protection provided against northwest winter winds by the sheltering action of the main wing, which has only corridors or bedrooms to the north, not living rooms. Cooling provided by southwest summer winds, passing to the east court through the breezeway.

Gardens are interconnected by the breezeway (see sketch on page 114).

Adequate number of apartments provided in relation to demand and to requirements of financing.

Balance of 2-bedroom and 1-bedroom apartments falls well within the set program.

AGAINST: The river view is oblique from six small corridor-floor apartments at the northeast end of the east wing.

The junction between main wing and east wing causes non-typical plans and framing.

DENSITY WAS CHECKED BY PLANNERS

Like any tall elevator apartment plan, the skip-floor type of plan used at Eastgate should be used sparingly and never be crowded on the land. To make sure they were on the beam, the architects asked for opinions of professional city planners. The answer of Roland Greeley is reproduced in full:

"The general concept of neighborhood-wide densities is scarcely applicable at Eastgate because: 1) the controllable site of about two acres is too small to afford most neighborhood requirements; and 2) the occupants of the site, and of the surrounding area, comprise a far from typical group, both because of total number and because of family composition.

"Of the basic elements which control neighborhood density the following cannot be applied directly:

- 1) Playfield space, for teen-agers and adults. Eastgate occupants will presumably use M.I.T. facilities.
- 2) Playground facilities, primarily for elementary school-age children. The relatively few children in this age group

will have to use M.I.T. facilities or be transported to Magazine Street or some other distant area. As a playground should be at least three acres, on-site provision is of course out of the question.

3) School, public building and shopping facilities. The total population in the Eastgate area could not possibly support such facilities, beyond a minimum of retail stores, such as are contemplated. Such possibly sub-standard conditions as transportation to school are inevitable because of the site location.

"Of the other basic controls on neighborhood density, parking and circulation can be adequately cared for within the existing site plan. The only other basic control is that of light and air. Whether this will be adequate seems to be a question only as regards the lower rooms on the Amherst Street side, and the answer is primarily dependent upon dwelling unit design, and control of what is done north of Amherst Street. If reasonable standards of light and air are assured, I believe the other standards are well cared for to the extent practicable."

A SKIP-FLOOR CORRIDOR SCHEME

HAS FOUR COMPONENTS

RIGHT

1. Elevators stop only at intermittent floors, where there are long access corridors

At Eastgate, corridors are introduced at every third floor. Object: to cut down public corridor area and gain efficient use of expensive elevators





BELOW

3. Non-corridor floors extend from exterior wall to exterior wall, have privacy and through ventilation

(At Eastgate it was found simpler to provide only simplex apartments, all on one floor. In some locations the scheme could be worked with duplexes or interlocking 1-floor, 2-floor units)



LEFT

2. All occupants leave elevator on the corridor floor. Those living on noncorridor floors use auxiliary private stairways, going up or down

At Eastgate, auxiliary stairs are inside the apartments. All vestibules are on corridor floors, are easily found. Interior stair gives apartments more air, more apparent space; relieves owner of maintenance of public stairs



RIGHT

4. Secondary means of egress must be provided

At Eastgate the balconies, which serve pleasant living, double (on non-corridor floors) as emergency exits. The occupant, on a non-corridor floor, can escape to a corridor by way of his neighbor's balcony, in emergencies





Renderings by Ralph Rapson



EFFICIENCY STUDIES AND COST ANALYSIS WERE USED TO DETERMINE

WHETHER PREMIUM FACILITIES HAD INVOLVED A SACRIFICE

Statistical "efficiency" is not the be-all and end-all of apartment house design, but merely a "hard-boiled" test of *selected factors*. Owners and architects of Eastgate used it to check whether any premium was being paid, in building cost or in space, for the premium standards that were set up in terms of sunlight, outlook, privacy, ventilation.

All concerned recognized the pitfalls in measuring tangibles against intangibles. ("How much sunlight equals how many square feet of floor space???")

To make certain of checking the "skip-floor" innovation, the toughest test was adopted, that of "net rental area to gross area." * This would surely expose any waste space attributable to the private stairways if these were not offset by the fewer corridors.

Rarely would a multi-story apartment show a net-togross, by this test, much in excess of 50 per cent. Around 60 per cent is possible in 3-story, in-line, walk-up plans. But in elevator buildings, as height and coverage increase, even 50 per cent is a good standard in actual experience; and by the time there is coverage of nearly all the ground, say on Park Avenue, New York, the netto-gross might fall to 35.

For study purposes, Eastgate architects set up a comparison with a current New York cross-plan building, from a large insurance-financed project. To even out the "skip-floor" effect, a 3-floor slice from each of the two buildings was used for comparison.

ltems	Eastgate	Current x-Type Bldg.
No. rooms (3 floors)	299	252
No. ap'ts (3 floors)	67	72
Av. rooms per ap't	3.4	3.5
Gross floor area	66,816	75,640
Net rental area	36,853	37,908
Av. sq. ft. per room		
Gross	292	300
Net	161	150
Net to gross	55.1	50.1

* Tough because no credit is revealed for premium facilities such as extra closets where really convenient, extra bathrooms, etc. A second method, "gross rental area to gross area," has limitations in not exposing any wasteful amounts of hall space, or dark unusable foyer space, within apartments. A third method, "usable rental area to gross area," would include storage space, exclude unfurnishable circulation space. Though potentially revealing, this method is limited by the difficulty of precise definition and measurement of "usable" area. Such tables convinced the architects that no premium had been paid, under their plan, in return for the intangible amenities — perhaps the reverse.

WOULD the forward-looking plan type used at Eastgate involve disproportionate costs? the owners asked their builders, the George A. Fuller Co. This builder was then completing a large insurance-financed project in New York State, involving two 13-story apartment buildings of superior merit using the cross-type plan. Actual costs of the earlier project were prorated to take account of a rising cost index, and were compared to the guaranteed cost for Eastgate, with results as follows:

COST COMPARISONS, CROSS TYPE

AND SKIP-FLOOR CORRIDOR TYPE

Cost Ifem	Per Construction Rm	Per Rental Rm
 Two 13-story insurance-owned cross-type bldg erected by Geo. A. Fuller Co. 1947–1948: 	5.,	
Actual construction cost per room	\$2809	
Prorated to Dec. 31, 1947, by Geo. A. Fuller Co	. 3053	\$2631
Prorated to Oct. 1948 by Dodge Cost Index st	3450	2971
 Eastgate skip-floor and corridor bldg. incluing landscaping and balconies (balconies not count as construction rooms). Excluding penthouses of garage, land cost, cost of piles, architects' fees Actual construction cost per room (926) 	red	\$3049

* Cost indices show 13 per cent increase from Dec. 31, 1947 to October, 1948.

It would seem, then, even allowing for unforeseen contingencies, that the skip-floor plan can be built on fairly even terms, as to cost, with conventional plans. The chief difference which showed up was not in *construction cost* but in *development cost* (not shown in the table) due to the local situation. The discussion of such local features as the pile foundation is omitted in this general study of a building type. Suffice it that the magnificent scenic character and the location of the property offset this extra development cost as a market factor. TWO BR APT





Main wing plans (side corridor)

ONE BR APT



CORRELEDCOR IF I.



NF IJ. BB DE IJ (D VV

DIVERSITY: Eastgate exhibits a variety of apartment types produced by (a) a skip-floor scheme, with (b) two orientations. The main wing apartments (shown on this page) result from *side-corridor and apartments with south orientation;* the "leg" apartments (next page) result from *central corridor and east-west orientation*. Six typical plans result, of which the above-the-corridor or below-the-corridor types are almost identical except as to stair landings. (Careful perusal of the general building plan will show additional variants produced by introduction of extra bedrooms and by special plans at the junction of the main wing with the east wing.)

BALCONIES: Without exception, every living room was faced on a livable balcony (on the ground floor, this was replaced by a private garden terrace). Separated from the living room only by a floor-to-ceiling glass wall, the balcony really extends the apparent living room, shades the interior against the hot summer sun.

BROADSIDE EXPOSURE: Living rooms were given their long dimensions along the exterior wall, giving pleasant exposure, good light inside; "sitting" areas are out of the traffic paths.

DINING AND KITCHEN AREAS ON EXTERIOR WALLS: The sunny pleasant dining space is especially welcome compared to dark interior dining so often provided in apartment plans where the dining area is an interior passage.

The lack of direct kitchen access from the entry has been criticized; but the architects felt it was definitely more important to supply the kitchen with a view and natural ventilation (the latter is required by Cambridge code) and to place the kitchen door in such a way as to create the pleasant dining area just mentioned. These doors are to be large, sliding ones; when they are open the kitchen space is felt as part of the open planning, and the window adds another glimpse of the river from parts of the living room. (Note especially the "studio" apartment type, seen on the left-hand side of the middle plan on the opposite page.)

BEDROOMS were made generous in size, and so planned that beds need not face the windows or block access to wardrobes. These in turn were supplied with sliding doors, so that all the contents may be reached without the necessity of opening a closet door out into the room.

DEVELOPED FOR BETTER LIVING



West and East wing plans (central corridor)

STORAGE was treated as a special problem. The aim was to give every apartment ample unassigned storage space in addition to facilities for coats, linen, brooms and clothing. In the main wing the storage in vestibules is commendable, where occupants of apartments reached by stairs can leave heavier outdoor things. Elsewhere, storage has been provided either in the apartment or at concentrated locker areas.*

The apartment count is as follows:

29 3-bedroom apts	145 rooms	11%
108 2-bedroom apts	432 rooms	41%
95 1-bedroom apts	285 rooms	37%
28 studio apts	56 rooms	11%
1 penthouse apt	8 rooms	
TOTALS 261 apartments	926 rooms	100%
For rental rooms add 60 "rooms"	for 240 balconies	s and 14

"rooms" for large dining spaces*

* Recent refinements in unit plans have resulted in 233 apartments (89%) having general storage areas of at least 24 sq. ft. within the apartment. The 28 small apartments (11%) without this feature have been assigned storage lockers on corridor floors opposite the elevators.

WHY NO DUPLEX APARTMENTS IN EASTGATE?

In a good many projects for "skip-floor" apartments drawn up on a theoretic basis here, and in apartments built abroad, there have been complex duplex plans interlocking with the single-floor dwellings.

Such duplex plans were tried by Eastgate architects in the initial stages, abandoned for reasons some of which were merely local in bearing, some more general. The first, local, difficulty was the problem of secondary egress, as demanded by code, from the second floor of a duplex plan. Balconies would be an unjustifiable expense if they opened from bedrooms where they would have little other use. The second local difficulty was that duplexes would have produced too many larger apartments in relation to the demand at Cambridge. The third, general difficulty was the tendency of duplexes to produce unbalanced room sizes — bedrooms too large; living rooms too long unless kitchens were put in forbidden inside locations.



IF HA . A DB (D V DE







GENERAL PLANS show the effect of two entrance levels. Access to garden apartments may be either direct from the garden at the south or via the entrance floor corridor. Vehicular access and direct foot access from M.I.T. are from the north to the main lobby at entrance level. The lobby, open from front to rear, has a stairway providing access to and view of the garden and river



TYPICAL CORRIDOR FLOOR



ENTRANCE (UPPER) LEVEL

TYPICAL FLOORS (lower plans, opposite page and this page) include corridor plans and "skip-floor" non-corridor plans. Because the non-corridor floors are similar, whether above or below the corridor floor, only one non-corridor floor plan is shown. Note the inclusion of shopping facilities on the floor at garden level, to take care of tenants' needs not supplied in the neighborhood



NON-CORRIDOR FLOOR

ROOF AND GROUNDS WERE AVAILABLE FOR SPECIAL USES

First of all they served outdoor living; then parking, community gatherings, nursery supervision, services such as laundry





It was planned to develop the area to the south of the building (see view above) as a garden, containing play areas for children and quiet shaded sitting areas for adults. (Landscape plans, by Dan Kiley, are in preparation.) The roof, as seen in the plan at the left, can be used for community rooms and laundry. (The penthouse, seen in the plan to the left, is entered from the roof, has its secondary egress on the floor below, where it also has two bedrooms belonging to it.)

Parking provisions were made for 75 cars in a semiunderground garage with direct access to elevators at the garden level; and for an additional 65 cars on the roof, at the level of the entrance floor (see building plans, previous two pages).

All these special provisions and amenities of good living were considered a good investment value. Their presence would help maintain the attractiveness of the building in the future when conditions might be more competitive.



COST OF BALCONIES AND INTERIOR STAIRS

In pro-rating the cost of balconies (among the 240 apartments having balconies) a net construction cost was used, which included balconies and canopies but excluded fees or the provision of a door. This yielded a cost of \$340 per apartment having a balcony. (The area of 6 by 16 ft. per balcony, or a total of 25,630 sq. ft., was not added in computing the area of the building, but each balcony was called a "1/4-room" in computing the schedule of rental rooms.)

SOUTH ELEVATION-MAIN WING

The net construction cost of interior stairs, again excluding fees, was put at \$168 apiece.



EAST ELEVATION-SOUTH WING

Two planning factors affected strongly the arrangement in elevation of the balconies, which are so powerful a factor in the design. The first was the desire that the balconies serve as literal and visual extensions of the living rooms. The second was the function of the balconies in supplying secondary means of egress.

In general, the effort was made to stack rather than stagger the balconies, since each balcony in a stack would protect the next against sun and weather; moreover there would be no opportunity for neighbors to look down and across into adjacent balconies. Nevertheless the east and west wings required a different treatment, with occasional staggering of balconies to meet the requirements of egress.

THE PLAN INVOLVED STRUCTURAL ADAPTATIONS

(described by Frank K. Perkins, structural engineer with Thomas Worcester, Inc.)

Several structural problems are inherent in the design of a building that is basically a thin vertical slab, with balconies as an essential design element and with alternating floor plans. (Concrete was use used for economy and less height)

1. WIND BRACING PROBLEMS IN A TALL, NARROW BUILDING



Wind bracing becomes a factor when the ratio of height to width exceeds 2.5. The columns and beams would have become too large in the lower floors if the wind had been carried by "rigid frame" design. In addition, cross beams were undesirable for architectural reasons. Therefore, diaphragm walls carry most of the wind load. These are reinforced concrete, extend the full height of the building, and act as partition walls as well as bracing walls. In the expansion joint there is a "saw tooth" connection which allows movement in the longitudinal direction, but which picks up transverse wind shear.

2. COLUMN DESIGN WITH BALCONIES IN VERTICAL ALIGNMENT

There were several angles to the design of the columns. Even without wind load, columns became large on the lower floors; so 4,000 lb. concrete and hard grade steel are used for all columns below the ninth floor. The exposed face of the exterior columns had to be vertical where the balconies were aligned, so a constant dimension was held along the face of the building with the depth being reduced for the upper floors. This resulted in some eccentricity, but interior columns were concentric in almost every case.

3. FLOOR DESIGN IN A STRUCTURE WITH MANY STAIRS

The final framing of the floor system was a compromise. An influencing factor was the desire to have the bottom of the slab act as a ceiling, with a smooth surface that could be tinted without plastering, and with a minimum number of breaks. Rib construction was out for this reason, and flat slab design was dropped on account of the size and location of stair wells and other floor openings. The final selection was a series of one-way slabs on the south side of the main wing and two-way slabs on the north side. There are longitudinal beams down the center line of columns with cross beams on the north side that assist in framing the stair wells. The balconies are cantilevered over the spandrels from the living room slabs.

4. PROBLEMS OF PIPES AND SERVICES WITH VARIED FLOOR PLANS

The difference in the layout between corridor floors and non-corridor floors caused a problem in plumbing services. The bathrooms could not be aligned, so that it was necessary to hold one main stack with the other fixtures to the north in some cases and to the south in others. The general design of the building caused a great concentration of electric, steam, plumbing, and other services; so a pipe gallery is being installed under the first floor to distribute the heavier service pipes and conduits horizontally.





NEW HEATING DEVICES WERE DEVELOPED IN CORRELATION

(described by Charles A. Turner, Chief Mechanical Engineer, Thomas Worcester, Inc.)

In any structure, the heating system must meet the three tests of initial cost, operating cost, and tenant satisfaction. In the Eastgate scheme there was the added requirement that the mechanical equipment correlate with design

Outstanding in respect to first cost, fuel cost, and maintenance, was a system adapted from the "downfeed steam system." Steam is taken from the distribution mains under the first floor directly to the ceiling of the top floor of the building in uncovered risers, which are run exposed through bathrooms, corridors, and kitchens having outside walls and windows, and which provide the only heat for such rooms. At the top floor, branches run out from the risers along the outside wall, to a point above the living room and bedroom windows (see sketch). Each runout then crops into one end of a fintube convector. From the other end of the convector a line is dropped through the floor to the next convector in the floor below, and this is repeated until all floors are served. The system involves very few traps or valves. It is operated on a balanced sub-atmospheric steam supply with the amount of vacuum being controlled by an outdoor thermostat.

Unfortunately the system described involves exposed pipes, provides no automatic temperature control for each apartment; obstructs the outside wall.

Another method, now under consideration, is by no means basically new for residential use, but is unique in large apartment buildings. Essentially this is "individual forced warm air" using a complete unit for each apartment. The source of heat for the unit, instead of being "direct fire," is a steam coil, fed and controlled from central steam supply as before. The unit, consisting of steam coil, fan, trap, valve, and cabinet, will be in a recess located in each apartment (see sketch). Warm air will discharge from the top of the unit into a plenum chamber, created by a furred-down ceiling, out of which grilles will discharge the air into the rooms. Air return is through louvers in the bottom of the cabinet. Each apartment will be provided with a thermostat controlling the fan with off-on action.

Tested by mock-up, this system shows a possible increase in installation cost over the other system, and somewhat increased maintenance costs; but these factors are more than compensated, it is thought, by tenant satisfaction because of individual apartment control; by operating economy through such control; by non-interference with pleasant living arrangements.







THE SKIP-FLOOR CORRIDOR

- 1. NATURAL VENTILATION
- 2. ORIENTATION
- 3. ECONOMICAL SITING AND SLOPES
- 4. ECONOMY OF ELEVATORAGE AND PUBLIC
- 5. ARCHITECTURAL MASS

Handsome luxury apartments by WELLS COATES, at Palace Gate, London. Built in 1939

All through ventilation duplex in the main building. 1½-story living room. Side corridor and access gallery each third floor. 8 stories



LOWER







To the right is shown siting of OSCAR NIEMEYER'S resort hotel on a steep slope in Ouro-Preto, Brazil. Built 1943

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

BUILDING TYPE SERVES A FIVE-FOLD PURPOSE

By Julian Whittlesey

A CHITECTS have been driven into a tiresome epoch of cross-shaped, H-shaped and Z-shaped plans in their search for various economical ways to build multi-story apartments, having due regard for corner ventilation, if not through ventilation; and for a low ratio of elevators, public stairs and public halls for a given number of apartments; but with little regard for topography, orientation and the architecture of the mass. The fact is that these shapes by their nature can pay only slight heed to topography and orientation.

The ubiquitous cross, double cross and H buildings (up to 14 stories in our public housing projects) generally score the highest economy. Z plans, more shapely in mass, more adaptable to topography, and more amenable to orientation and composition, have run second in the economy race, being best used up to six floors and best limited to 4 or 5 apartments per floor.

A way out has long been sought in the skip-floor corridor plan types which offer a long slim building meeting all of the above considerations of ventilation, orientation, topography and mass. This is not a recommendation for exclusive use of the long, strip building in a large site. Its virtue may lie rather in occasional use. Furthermore the inclusion of all of a required range of apartment types in this type of plan can lead to great difficulties and compromises within it.

The skip-floor corridor plan runs afoul of the usual building code provision that an apartment occurring on more than one floor have an exit on each. Some codes require two means of exit from the apartment. Others require, as in New York City, but one exit into a hall served by two exit stairs. Few codes will consider a stair within an apartment as being contributory to the exit requirements. Evidently Chicago, Cambridge, Milwaukee, London, Marseilles, and Motor City (Brazil) do — at least within some limits — otherwise we would not see examples built starting Hence they are often reserved for the larger apartments.

Such distinction as these simple shapes can have is often lost when they are complicated by additional breaks and protrusions resulting from the pressure to add one more room per floor, and to reduce the average gross area per room from say 200 sq. ft. per room to 198 sq. ft. per room.

Some mixtures, of crosses and Z's for instance, have proven good, especially where the latter is kept lower than the former and possibly connected with it. The Z offers some directional feeling in site composition besides some height variation. At best these agglomerations of multi-story cross, H and Z buildings leave much to be desired in site planning — not to mention in orientation and economical use of sloping topography. Often these agglomerations are a disease.

This was the first approach to the skip-floor corridor plan. Although the corridor does occur on all floors, Pingusson secured through ventilation and a good north view from his south exposed suites. The corridor has lower ceiling than the rooms and is kept about 9 risers below the suite floor. This permitted a window between the top of one corridor and the bottom of the other, and this forms a deeply recessed continuous window on the north side of each suite. The resulting elevation is also of interest



G. H. PINGUSSON's 10-story resort hotel at St. Tropez, France, built in 1933







H. TULLGREN's preliminary plan for a Milwaukee apartment house, has alternate floor corridor and single exposure duplexes. He claimed natural

ventilation by air drawn into special bay windows. Plan as built in 1933 had through ventilation duplexes off a one side corridor on alternate floors



ABOVE

OSCAR NIEMEYER's resort hotel at Ouro Preto, Brazil, built in 1943, 3 stories, has through ventilation duplexes with 2-story living rooms. Single exposure 1-room suites occur on the corridor floor.

BELOW

P. JEANNERET's recently proposed 14-story apartment building in Puteaux, France, does not take full advantage of through ventilation duplex, as he uses some which are duplexed to a single exposure.







in 1933 and still being built, and more in the planning stage today. What might these limits safely be? Certainly we cannot favor deletion of all present provisions for a separate exit from the second floor of a duplex. This would be fine for the enthusiasts of the skip-floor corridor, but it has too often been suggested by people in haste to make certain profitable building alterations. The question suggests that present codes did not contemplate the small compact apartment whose interior stair is but a few feet from room doors on one level and but a few feet from a public hall door at another, with the plan so arranged that none of these distances lie through any living space other than, at most, an entrance or dining foyer. But how could present laws written long ago have contemplated a skip-floor corridor plan, first conceived, we believe, by Pingusson in France and by Tullgren in Milwaukee? Both were erected in 1933. Yes, it is time for a careful amendment of codes to permit a reasonable departure from the classic provisions directed to the conventional and generally large duplex (even triplex) apartments.

Prior to the "skip-floor corridor" plan came the balcony access (German) and side-corridor plans. Tending to balance the diseconomy of long corridors and much outside wall was the simplicity and regularity of structure, plan and mechanical system. So these plans prospered and are now regular practice for London's modern public housing. Rooms of like size and use being one above the other eased the sound reduction problem, particularly as to impact noises. No legal exit complications were involved. However, to retain cross ventilation by way of windows on the access balcony or side corridor meant to compromise privacy of any kitchens, baths, or minor rooms next to the balcony. This is where the skip-floor system came to the rescue, also enabling a deeper building with lower ratio of exterior wall, reduced corridor length etc. - but withal threatened by a relatively complicated plan structure.

The skip-floor corridor idea invited interlocking plans and sectional arrangements, overlapping duplex systems, etc., tested the ingenuity of the architect, confounded the plumber, and puzzled the acoustical engineer. This planning is



ELEVATION SYSTEM

plans studied

OTTO SILVA, PAUL WIENER & JOSÉ SERT's 8-story apartments nearing construction for the new "Motor City" near Rio de Janeiro. Through-ventilation duplex apartments, side corridor on alternate floors. SILVA has found a number of interesting elevation systems arising from the various skip-floor corridor

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still in its infancy. Few of the architects using the idea have developed all of its advantages in a single system. Some, including Le Corbusier at Marseilles. have used it primarily, it seems, to secure a long thin building but without through ventilation. Le Corbusier's discarded plans showed through ventilation by cross duplexing. But his final plans gave up through ventilation except occasionally, and duplexed the apartments so as to orient each with but one exposure, either east or west. Also, Jeanneret largely forsook through ventilation at Puteaux in 1948.

Development of unusually interesting façade patterns has been a by-product of these plans. And this does not necessarily rely on the brise-soleil for dramatic effect. In systems employing corridors on every other floor, the corridors may be scheduled sectionally to occur in succession on two floors followed by two successive non-corridor floors. This gives the exterior a strong stratification rather than an unbroken series of horizontal layers. The Motor City (Brazil) studies show this well. Other interesting exterior patterns arising from the skipfloor corridor idea are illustrated by Silva-Wiener-Sert studies and by Jeanneret's studies of Puteaux in which he illustrates three basic possible rhythms depending on how the corridor is scheduled and the duplexes interlocked.

LE CORBUSIER's 20-story apartment building now in progress for Marseilles. Partly through ventilation and partly not. Corridors every third floor. All apartments are duplexed. There are 5 types in the building's schedule, but only one of these is "cross" duplexed for through ventilation. All the others are duplexed to a single exposure. Interior baths and kitchens. Master bedroom is on gallery above the living room and faces the brisesoleil and balcony system which occurs on east, west and south exposures. The plan is unusually deep







ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF "SKIP-FLOOR" PLANS

By Julian Whittlesey

REFERENCE	ARCHITECT	LOCATION	STATUS	FLOORS	REMARKS
Ency. D'Arch., p. 356; Arch. Rev., Apr. '33	G. H. PINGUSSON	France, St. Tropez, Hotel L'Attitude 43	Built 1933	10 fls. firepr.	Side corridor. Through ventilation. Simple plan. Regular structura and mechanical systems. A first attempt. While not a true skip-floo corridor system, this interesting plan led to further developments
da Rassegna di Arch. 1937, p. a120; Arch. Forum, Jan. '34	H. TULLGREN	Milwaukee Apts.	Built 1933	9 fls. firepr.	Through ventilation. All duplex. Corridor alternate floors. Regula structural and mechanical systems. Simple plan. First in U.S.A.
Arch. Record, Nov. '39, p. 35, Arch. Rev., Ap. '33	WELLS COATES	London, Palace Gate Kensing- ton Apts.	Built 1939	8 fls. firepr.	Through ventilation, Duplex apartments, 1½-story living rooms Side corridor each third floor, Excellent simple plan, Regula structural and mechanical systems,
L'Arch. D'Auj. Sept. '47, p. 46, 47	OSCAR NIEMEYER	Brazil, Ouro- Preto Hotel	Built c. 1943	3 fls. firepr.	Through ventilation, duplex apartments with 2-story living room and interlocking with 1 room suites. Central corridor alternate floors. Regular structural and mechanical systems. Simple plan,
Arch. Forum, May '43, p. 138–145	SERGE CHEMAYEFF	New York City	Study 1943	10 fls.	Similar to Wells Coates' Palace Gate apartments, described above.
L'Arch. D'Auj., Dec. '47, p. 44-47	P. JEANNERET	France Puteaux Apts,	Proposed 1948	14 fls. firepr.	Partly through ventilation, partly not. Many single exposure duplex apartments. Otherwise duplex through ventilation apartments, interlocking with one room suites. Central corridor alternate floors. Regular structural and mechanical systems. Simple plan.
L'Arch. D'Auî., Sept. 47, p. 113	OTTO SILVA PAUL WIENER & SERT	Brazil, "Motor City," near Rio de Janeiro, Apts.	Nearing construc- tion 1949	8 fls. firepr.	Through ventilation. Duplex apts. Side corridor, alternate floors Simple plan, structural and mechanical systems.
Arch. Record, Feb. 49, p. 107-123	WM. H. BROWN ROBERT KENNEDY CARL KOCH VERNON DE MARS RALPH RAPSON	Cambridge Eastgate Apts for M.I.T.	In con- struction 1948-49	12 fls. firepr.	Mostly through ventilation. Central corridor every third floor. Through ventilation flats above and below corridor floor reached by private stair. Also side corridor and similar through ventilation flats above and below. Single exposure 2 and 3 room apts, at corridor floors.
Nichael Reese Jaspital, housing Jan brochure Oct. '46	MICHAEL REESE HOSPITAL PLAN- NING STAFF AND REGINALD ISAACS	Chicago, for Michael Reese Hospital, Apt.	Final plans 1948–49	15 fls. firepr.	Combined with conventional cross plan, Mostly through ventilation, Side corridor every third floor, through flats above and below corridor floor reached by private stair, Single exposure 2½ rooms apartments at corridor floors. Exterior kitchens in duplexes, Interior kitchens in 2½'s.
incy. D'Arch., p. 347; e C. Oeuvres 38–46, o. 172–187; L'Arch. D'Auj., Sept. '47, p. 37	LE CORBUSIER	Marseilles	In con- struction 1949	18 fls. firepr.	Partly through ventilation, partly not. Central corridor every third floor. Interior kitchens and baths throughout. 5 types apts., all duplex but only 1 type is duplexed to get through ventilation. Other types are duplex but single exposure. Balconies and brise-soleil, east, west, and south. Very deep plan.
Prog. Arch., Feb. '47, 6. 42-48	ILSA MEISSNER	New York City site	Student thesis 1947	7 and 15 fls.	Mostly through ventilation. Central corridor every third floor. Through ventilation flats above and below each corridor floor, all reached by public stairs. Single exposure apts. at corridor floors include the 5 room type which is a serious defect.
arch. Record, Nov. 47, p. 86–88	HARVEY WILEY CORBETT & CHARLES H. SACKS	New York City	Study 1947	Multi- Story	Through ventilation duplex apartments, Alternate floor corridors, Simple plan and regular mechanical and structural systems. Efficiency analysis compares this plan to the 5-wing plan by Fellheimer, Wagner and Vollmer.

Preliminary plans (1946) by MICHAEL REESE HOSPITAL PLANNING STAFF and REGINALD ISAACS for Chicago promise to go ahead. Through ventilation duplexes. Side corridor every third floor. Through flats above and below the corridor floor are reached by private stair. 15 stories are planned

LOWER



MIDDLE



UPPER



TECHNICAL NEWS AND RESEARCH

RESEARCH IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

By C. F. Rassweiler *

THE PUBLIC has been fed so many imaginative and spectacular articles on what research is going to do about housing that too many people are expecting the solution of all our housing problems to arrive suddenly full-blown from some secret research laboratory. But we know too much about this building industry to expect all of our problems to be solved by hanging a house from a pole or designing a machine to lay a house the way a hen lays an egg.

Actually, research in the construction industry is faced with certain peculiar industry problems which must be recognized if results of practical value are to be secured. In the building industry there is no one or even any small group of commercial organizations which can fully control a new building all the way from the initial conception to the point where it is turned over in completed form ready to use. In the construction industry, we are still in somewhat the same situation as the automotive industry early in its history when the development and design of the motor, the brakes and the other component elements were largely in the hands of the parts manufacturers.

One of the problems of conducting research in the construction field is the difficulty of setting and defining clearcut objectives, particularly regarding the materials which go into construction. People in Florida, Vermont, Seattle, and Los Angeles are willing to accept identical automobiles and refrigerators but there is no sound basis for asking them to accept the same houses. Also, the success of a building material depends not only upon its own cost but upon its cost of installation, and this will vary with building requirements and building practices from locality to locality. Research is also handicapped in the construction industry by the time necessary both to demonstrate the satisfactory performance of a new material and to persuade home builders to accept it.

It has become popular to talk about construction as a backward industry, but, in spite of the difficulties handicapping research activities, technical improvements in building practices of tremendous importance have been made steadily over a remarkably long period of building growth. Based on this past record, we are justified in predicting certain broad types of accomplishment for research in the future.

Perhaps we should first consider in what directions research might proceed to reduce building costs. We might start by thinking of what research might do to permit the utilization of cheaper raw materials for housing. We must recognize, however, that the construction industry already uses extremely low cost raw materials. It seems unlikely that we can expect research to find very much cheaper basic raw materials than those now in use. Therefore, research must reduce the amount of material needed for a house, or reduce the man-hours of labor required to convert the raw material into finished housing. One way is to make one material do the work which now requires two. For example, asbestos siding shingles accomplish the purpose which originally required both wood siding shingles and paint. Also, gypsum board replaces both lath and two coats of plaster.

Another way in which research will reduce costs is through the development of building materials which can be applied in *larger unit sizes*, thus reducing labor expense. The size of the individual pieces used in the construction of a house will steadily increase, and the number of



pieces required will, therefore, steadily decrease. The number of pieces to be erected can also be decreased by assembling the materials into prefabricated sections in a factory before shipping them. This would make it possible to expend in the factory an increasing percentage of the man-hours necessary to convert raw materials into finished housing. However, the extent to which this takes place will be affected less by research than by the outcome of the competition between factory labor and site labor for a bigger share of the work involved in housing.

In attempting to give the customer more value for the dollar, factory prefabrication has attracted a great deal of attention as a possible means of getting the greatest value for the customer out of the hours of labor necessary to convert raw materials into finished housing. There has been the feeling that machines can be used more effectively to increase labor productivity in the factories than at the construction site, and that planning and supervision can be applied there more effectively to increase the productivity of labor.

On the other hand, there are very definite advantages in converting raw materials into finished housing at the job site. For example, it is frequently cheaper to transport the materials in unfabricated form. Large units may re-

^{*}Vice President for Research and Development, Johns-Manville Corporation.

ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING

TECHNICAL NEWS AND RESEARCH

quire extra strengthening and special design to withstand shipping, and their handling may require expensive equipment. Moreover, expending a considerable amount of the labor at the site offers flexibility in operation which may reduce cost by fitting the design to local conditions, utilizing local materials and local skills. The emphasis which research places upon the development of materials for prefabrication or for site erection will depend upon the relative aggressiveness of prefabricators and factory labor on one side and site erectors and site labor on the other in trying to give the customer the greatest value for his money by utilizing new ideas and materials.

Any consideration of possible technical improvements in construction must recognize that, in addition to research on building materials, there is need for research on the entirely separate field of design, assembly of materials, and methods of erection for small homes. The industry is poorly equipped to carry out research in this field, although many local builders have done worthwhile work on this problem. Perhaps the most significant research work in this field has been carried on by the Producers' Council with the Industry-Engineered House. The importance of experimental construction as a means of testing the results of consultation and design and the effectiveness of experimental construction in developing new ideas already have been demonstrated at the University of Illinois on erection studies centering around the Industry-Engineered House and by other research institutes with more general objectives.

Because there are no dominant commercial organizations in the building field to carry on research on actual house construction and to coordinate this work with the development of building materials, some other means must be found to achieve the correlation of research activity. The most important move in this direction is the start which has been made toward organizing the Building Research Advisory Board under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences and its agency. the National Research Council. The formal objectives of this Board have been widely publicized. Putting these objectives in simple terms, the Board might be expected to do the following:

1. Determine and clearly state the

most important needs of the construction field which research should attempt to satisfy.

2. Make a survey to see how much research is being directed toward the solution of these needs.

3. Where work is being directed toward objectives of minor value, attempt to have the work shifted to more worthwhile objectives.

4. Where there is duplication or competition, attempt to foster cooperation.

5. In fields where there is insufficient research activity, attempt to stimulate interest and persuade logical public or private interests to undertake needed work.

6. Give advice and aid in directing any government funds toward worthwhile objectives.

7. Attempt to secure utilization of research results.

It is important that the collection of the funds necessary for this work be pushed with all possible speed.

The real cost of a house is no longer the actual cost at the time of construction, but rather the sum of the monthly carrying charges plus maintenance and repairs. Anything that research can do toward reducing the cost of maintenance or repair actually is a contribution to reducing the cost of home ownership. This is a logical field for building material research.



When we think of the really major accomplishments of industrial research, we do not think only of what research has done directly toward cost reduction. Rather, we think of those new things which research has created to increase the comfort and the interest of living. We think of the new or improved things created to constantly provide the increased desire to consume, so necessary to balance our constantly increasing ability to produce.

If research is to live up to its potentialities, it must provide not only cheaper, but better housing, not particularly more durable housing, but housing that will give the owner greater joy of living — housing that will offer much more in the way of comfort and satisfaction. In this way, people who really have sufficient money to build good housing constantly will be discarding their old houses and building or acquiring new ones. Perhaps this may



sound like a wasteful procedure, but actually it is the economically sound and historically correct solution for the problem of low-cost housing. No one felt it necessary to solve this problem for the automobile industry by providing Government subsidy for the building of new cars for this market. The automobile industry solved it by putting into each successive model new features for owner satisfaction. In the automobile market, the sale of cars to the low-income groups is constantly subsidized by the people who have enough money to be constantly reaching for a greater transportation satisfaction.

It is difficult, if not impossible, to conceive what the improvement might be that would have as profound an effect upon increasing satisfaction in home ownership as, for example, the introduction of inside plumbing and toilets. This is no reason, however, why we should not recognize that developing such an improvement should be a major objective which research should constantly keep in mind. If we cannot conceive of its arriving from some specific development, then we must strive to create it by joint effort of material development, architectural design, and adjustment to local climatic and geographical situations.

The successful application of research to the problems of the construction industry calls for voluntary coordination and cooperation to an extent never before successfully achieved in the field of research under anything except the pressure of actual war. It is up to us to see that the mechanism and the means are provided for expanding voluntary cooperation to the point where it adequately covers the full needs of the industry.

WATER-REPELLENT PRESERVATIVES WORK ON WOOD

Toward effective control of shrinking, warping, swelling, decay and termites

Harlan H. Edwards, Consulting Engineer, Seattle, Washington

A common complaint of the housewife might go something like this —

"I'm getting tired of having windows and doors that swell and stick so tightly that every time we have a rainy spell I can't operate them. Can't you do something about them?"

Of course, the reason that wood windows and doors cause trouble in wet weather is that like all other kinds of wood, they swell and shrink with moisture change, in greater or less degree depending upon their cell structure. Rapid gain or loss of moisture produces greater expansion or shrinkage in the surface portion of a board than within, thereby setting up stresses that cause warping, cupping, splitting or surface checking. Also, too great gain in moisture content causes raising of the grain which destroys the smoothness and surface character of the wood, while the continued presence of moisture in wood sets up conditions ideal for the development

Further technical discussion of water repellents, preservatives and their combinations will appear next month in an article by Dr. F. L. Browne, Chemist, Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wisconsin. of harmful fungi or rot, or for termite infestation.

Other Sources and Effects of Moisture

It is a common occurrence in new buildings to have changes in fit of doors and windows take place during finishing operations or after occupancy. These are due to the changes in moisture content which always follow the drying of brick, plaster or tile work, and the starting of heating systems. Doors warp and stick, and windows change their operating characteristics because unpainted edges and poorly painted surfaces permit moisture to enter the wood.

Outside finish and siding also come in for their share of damage due to dimensional change. Warped trim, cupped or split siding and stained, blistered or peeled paint are too common, all due to dampness, whether originally present in the wood, acquired periodically from rain, or resulting from the condensation of water vapor upon the hidden surfaces inside the outer walls of the building.

Air conditioning, humidifying, weatherstripping and furnace heating have greatly changed conditions within buildings. The moisture added by unvented heaters, by humidifying equipment, by cooking and by people is not removed, as in earlier years, by air leakage around doors and windows. Instead, in the event no vapor barrier is used, the moisture passes unnoticed through the walls. If the weather is cool, the vapor condenses on the cold studs, on the back of sheathing or on the underside of roofing (where ventilation is inadequate) and eventually causes rot and mold, or trouble with blistered paint.

Toxic, Water-Repellent Treatment

By preventing the ready absorption of moisture by the wood, these difficulties may be controlled and to a large extent eliminated. This is accomplished by dipping the dry wood after fabrication into a colorless solution which is both toxic to fungi and termites and water-repellent in its action on wood. The duration of immersion averages three minutes depending upon the kind, size and character of the wood members being treated and upon the depth of penetration wanted.*

This solution, obtainable commercially as *Woodlife* (Protection Products Co., Kalamazoo, Mich.), *Woodtox* (Monsanto Chemical Co.), *Permatox WR* (Chapman Chemical Co., Memphis, Tenn.) and other brands, is a comparatively little-known pre-war material that did an outstanding job during the war in

Portion of this wood specimen dipped in water-repellent preservative (indicated by dark color) did not check, crack when subjected to rapid drying conditions as did the untreated part. Stain was added to the treating solution for observation purposes



^{*} Ed.—One manufacturer recommends that lumber to be used in contact with the soil or other severe conditions of exposure (sills, joist, etc.) be soaded in the solution until substantially all of the sapwood is penetrated whenever possible. This requires from one to six hours depending on the character and dimensions of the lumber.

ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING

TECHNICAL NEWS AND RESEARCH

making possible the use of lumber and plywood to replace steel, and often doing a better job under the most severe conditions.

Chemically known as a solution of the preservative pentachlorophenol¹ with certain water-repellent resins in a penetrating solvent, this material has been thoroughly tested and finally approved for standard treatment of wood finish by national research and trade organizations. It is being specified as a "must" by architects and is voluntarily used by contractors throughout the nation, as they learn of its characteristics and performance.

What the Treatment Does

Complete immersion is necessary, rather than merely surface painting with the toxic water-repellent solution, because the liquid must thoroughly penetrate and saturate the exterior portions of the wood. Evaporation of the solvent leaves an elastic, permanent film which, lining the tiny wall cells, is resistant to the passage of moisture and gives the wood units a moisture-controlling and rot-preventing armor. As the result of this moisture stabilization, dimensional change is reduced and the natural association of wood and water is materially lessened. The toxic water-repellent film which lines the cell walls within the wood acts as a barrier, retarding the migration of water vapor through the wood and thereby decreasing the warping or splitting of siding and the blistering or staining of paint.

The addition of approximately \$10 per thousand board feet to the cost of the finish and millwork is small as insurance against this. It is entirely offset too by the saving in cost of replacement that might otherwise be required, to say nothing of the increased values to the user in not having to experience these vexing difficulties.

In addition to correcting the housewife's problem, the results of this dip treatment are of great value to finish painting operations. While the coating is definitely not a seal coat, it acts as a partial prime, preventing the excessive "striking in" of the paint and providing a base coating that bonds well with paint materials. It protects the paint bond from the destructive effects of moisture beneath and reduces the deep contrasts in appearance produced between spring and summer wood, when oil stains are used. It should not, however, be used when a bleaching process is to be employed as a part of the paint finish.

Protection Against Decay

The toxic character of the dip liquid is exceptionally valuable as insurance against damage by growth of fungus and the development of rot in damp and poorly ventilated places. The loss occasioned by fungus growth in a fine home seen by the author in California was sufficient to have paid many times over for complete treatment of all lumber in the structure.

Starting under the building in a poorly ventilated area near a concrete porch, the decay spread under the fine floor of the living room. It continued up the wall sheathing and studs, which had not been protected by a vapor barrier, and spread into the second story timbers and flooring like the branches and foliage of a tree. When it was discovered, the supporting wall timbers had become so weakened that failure was imminent.

Of course, one will say, this could have been partly prevented had the house been properly ventilated through foundation openings. However, in these days of fuel shortages and high costs, an uninformed owner or tenant may cover these openings to keep out the cold drafts instead of insulating his floor, and it does not take long for rot to develop under these conditions.

Condensation from humid air on the lower side of roofing and roof sheathing and in walls of a school in Washington State caused rot which destroyed the usefulness of the timber, and created a dangerous condition — a person walking on the roof might break through under his own weight. Large areas of sheathing could be removed with the fingers alone.

Another job suffered similar damage, wherein the upper two inches of a 3 in. plank roof was rotted before the situation was discovered, leaving a scant one inch of reasonably good wood to carry the roofing and live load over a span of 10 to 12 ft. Replacement costs in each case far exceeded what it would have cost to have dipped all the wood in the building.

Colors Added to the Solution

Cedar or similar wood shingles are naturally long lived, and generally are applied to a building without treatment. Since many people want different colors on the roof, and since occasional oiling has been found to add to their life, many shingle jobs are coated with an oil stain after laying. While this is perhaps better than no oiling at all, the coating brushed or sprayed on merely covers the surface and does not seal the ends or protect the shingle where one laps over the

The right half of this board was dipped in water-repellent preservative solution. It was then painted and later exposed to high humidity. Note the raised grain on the untreated side



¹ Ed.—According to the National Door Manufacturers Ass'n, the fungicides most widely used in water-repellent preservatives are the chlorinated phenols, phenylmercury cleate and copper nonthenate.

other — the place where moisture remains and decay starts.

Guarding against this, shingles on better work sometimes are pre-dipped in linseed oil and kerosene (and often much cheaper stains) and bundled for shipment. However, the water-repellent preservative solution with permanent colors added have opened up a new field of quality treatment. Shingles coated with this material usually hold their color and new character longer, since the soot and dirt wash off easily with each rain. Through the high penetrating qualities of the solution, shingles may under certain conditions be saturated satisfactorily by just loosening the bundle before dipping. This treatment lengthens the life of the roof not only by the greater permanence and effectiveness of the water-repellent treatment, but also by the added feature of toxicity which prevents fungus growths that are harmful to the roof.

As an experiment to show a "doubting Thomas" the value of even a minimum job of painting the preservative solution on a moss-covered shingle roof, the shingles were given a saturation paint coat. The moss soon withered, and after a few weeks the roof was clear. Such a low-cost application, however, can best be applied by spray using a coarse nozzle so that a saturation coat of the liquid can be driven around and under the shingles where brush application cannot reach.

During the war the addition of permanent colors to the water-repellent preservative solution extended its use to that as a preservative stain on finish lumber and millwork. A quick drying dip paint carrying the same preservative characteristics and at the same time having high hiding power was also developed in Seattle and was used very successfully on materials prefabricated for housing. Both the stain and the paint were applied to the material in the plant. Just a touch-up job was required after final erection. It combined dimensional control with preservative treatment and a paint priming job on all surfaces of the wood, at a cost comparing very favorably with the cost of priming alone. It had the added value of reducing or preventing premature checking and cracking of the lumber, a feature particularly valuable when unseasoned or wet lumber had to be used.

Protecting Wood During Storage, Shipment

The ability of the preservative dip treatment, even when immersion is as little as five seconds, to control checking and cracking of finish was strikingly given by the E. A. Nord Co., millwork manufacturers of Everett, Washington, who wrote in response to my inquiry:

"During the month of July, 1946, we ran a large quantity of 4 by 6 in. fir into special detailed window sill that was to be used for all of the sash in our new factory building. Since an estimated 60 day period would elapse before the building would be ready for framing, the 4 by 6 in. sill was treated by being submerged in a toxic dip solution for approximately five seconds. This material was then hauled to the new site on Puget Sound where it was stacked in the open without any protection from the weather. "The framing operation for sash in the factory began the latter part of September. At this time a close inspection of the 4 by 6 in. sill members revealed that only minute checks were present in the ends while no checking was found on any face of the members. Other material, not toxic dipped, stored near by under similar conditions had considerable end and surface checking showing.

"This experience has proved to us that the toxic dip treatment to lumber will greatly retard checking."

Somewhat similar experiences are also reported in connection with boxcar shipment of rough, green lumber from humid seaport and forest areas into more arid districts. When the cars are opened in the dry air, the untreated lumber soon begins to crack and snap as the quick evaporation of the surface moisture takes place. This results in loss through twisted, split and checked lumber, an occurrence which is noticeably absent with similar shipments of treated lumber.

Loss sometimes occurs through absorption of water in sea shipment. Dipping can greatly reduce such loss. This was shown on shipments of kiln dried finish for Alaskan construction under the author's direction. On one job, 2 by 6 in. T&G sheathing to be used for interior finish had been kiln dried and wrapped in heavy kraft paper before loading on ship. When it arrived on the job it was so badly warped that it could not be used. A second shipment was made, and suffered a similar fate. Then a third shipment was dipped for five minutes in the water-repellent preservative solution. It got through all right,

Lack of crawl space ventilation often sets up a humid condition, making untreated wood subject to decay. Adequate ventilation and, frequently, ground treatment are advisable for crawl space areas; however, a preservative used on the wood provides additional protection in case the ventilation openings are ever closed up by uninformed tenants or owners



ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING

TECHNICAL NEWS AND RESEARCH

and the experience led to the adoption of the treatment for all finish and millwork sent to that area.

Another advantage was evident from experience with finish which had been previously sent primed and back primed with paint, wrapped several pieces in a bundle. The finish sometimes arrived at the job welded or stuck tightly together by the paint, because it had not dried thoroughly before wrapping. Dipped material, however, was stacked and bundled after a few moments of draining and did not stick together at all.

Prefabricated houses which fit perfectly in the shop do not go together well in the field, if they become wet in transit or are placed in an atmosphere of different humidity. A change of dimension costs money to correct, detracts from the quality of the job, and thereby delays acceptance of prefabrication by the public. Experiences of this kind are causing mills doing prefabrication work to use the water-repellent toxic dip treatment or the water repellent treatment alone.

Assuring Proper Treatment

The architect, contractor or owner should take precautions to assure proper treatment. Some unscrupulous operators have substituted a cheaper thinned sealer, with poor results. Others have used extra thinner, which can be easily detected by checking the specific gravity of the solution. Others have added kerosene, which prevents the dip liquid from drying and also causes trouble in painting.

The best method of control has been to place the responsibility on the manufacturer or distributor of the water-repellent preservative — requiring supervision and certification of correct treatment by stamps on the material similar to grade marks on lumber. This was done very successfully during the war on material for Alaskan coastal construction under the writer's direction, by arrangement with the companies concerned.

Control can be set up in the specifications for the water-repellent preservative dip. The specification should cover the following items and conditions:

Preservative Treatment of Wood

All sleepers and subfloor, all wood in contact with masonry, all interior and exterior trim, screens, sash, doors, flooring, siding, interior woodwork and all other kiln dried material, except that specifically eliminated, shall be treated by immersing for a minimum period of three minutes in a water-repellent preservative solution which conforms to the requirements of the following paragraphs. Before stacking, the wood shall be kept on edge until completely drained and shall be dry enough to paint or putty in 48 hours after dipping, when all sur-

Water-filled blisters on this siding are evidence of the passage of moisture through untreated wood. The dark streak resulted from condensation on asphalted felt located back of the wood



faces are exposed to drying. The treated wood shall show no slow drying, softening, peeling, discoloration or other defects of the paint coatings due to the solution used.

The solution shall be of the oil-carrier, penetrating type containing not less than 5 per cent by weight of chlorophenols. The ready to use solution shall show a flash point of not less than 100° F. (Tag. closed cup method) and it shall meet the toxicity requirements of the Western Pine Association as determined by their standard toxicity test method.

The solution shall show substantially no sludge formation in the shipping drums nor in the treating tank at 40° F. When tested in the laboratory by means of the National Door Manufacturers Ass'n. test method, it shall show an effectiveness in reducing swelling of treated wood of 40 per cent or above, as compared with the swelling of untreated wood submerged in water at 80° F. for 8 hours.

Identification

All sizeable items treated as described shall be individually stamped on one end or on the unfinished side with the preservative manufacturer's certifications of quality. All small items that are bundled shall receive the stamp on at least one piece in the bundle, and all plywood shall bear the stamp on each sheet.

Inspection and Certification

Where the size and importance of the job warrant, clauses may be incorporated to the effect that the manufacturer of the water-repellent preservative solution or his distributor or agent shall:

1. Maintain a periodic inspection service at the mills, checking the solutions being used at each plant on each individual order, testing the same for consistency and certification.

2. Furnish suitable stamps and the proper ink for identification of the treated materials and

3. Shall provide certification that the materials furnished and applied meet the above requirements.

Upon receipt of the purchase order for materials requiring the above certification, the vendor shall immediately notify the agent of the manufacturer whose solution is to be used concerning the award so that proper inspection and certification may be provided. Results of field and laboratory investigations by Forest Products Laboratory

ATTIC condensation troubles, more common in recent years because of the combination of increased insulation, tighter construction and higher humidities, usually occur because preventive measures are inadequate. If vapor passes from the heated part of the house into the attic in sufficient quantities — and is not removed — and the attic temperature drops low enough, the vapor will condense on the cold surfaces.

Two means of combatting condensation are ventilation through attic louvers and application of a vapor barrier. To get reliable data on the efficiency of ventilation openings as commonly installed in well-insulated houses and to determine the effects of different amounts of ventilation and of a vapor barrier on condensation, the Forest Products Laboratory, in cooperation with the Housing and Home Finance Agency, investigated attic conditions in three occupied houses in Madison, Wis., and conducted controlled experiments.

Conditions in Occupied Houses

The attic conditions were investigated from mid-January through February of 1947 to establish the range of temperatures and relative humidities that prevailed. Moisture contents of rafters and roof boards were checked periodically to determine where condensed moisture tended to collect in the greatest amounts.

The first house, designated as A, was a $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story frame structure having a small louver with 80 sq. in. of opening, covered with screen, in each gable end to provide through ventilation.

House B was a 1-story frame house with a vapor barrier used between the ceiling joists and lath. The two louvers, covered with 16-mesh screen, each had a 285 sq. in. opening.

House C was a 2-story frame building with the gable louvers each having a 55 sq. in. opening; in addition, ³/₄ in. spacing between roof boards provided about 37 sq. in. of opening at each gable end.

The ceilings of all houses consisted of gypsum plaster on rock lath and were painted with flat wall paint. Insulation was placed between the ceiling joists in all houses, being level full in Houses A and C and 5 in. deep in House B.

Results of Tests

The test data obtained for each house were used to plot the curves shown in Fig. 1. The curves for House A reveal the small margin of safety between the dew point and the minimum temperature of the attic air and also that the dew point exceeded the minimum tem-



The graphs on this page plot data taken when attic conditions were investigated in three Madison, Wis. houses. Fig. 1 (right) indicates that attic condensation was often possible in house A. House B, using a vapor barrier, and House C, with low humidity in the living area, remained out of danger. Fig. 2 (below) — migration of water vapor through walls and into attics is caused by difference between the vapor pressures of inside and outside air. This shows that House A was most susceptible to condensation troubles



ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING

TECHNICAL NEWS AND RESEARCH

Summary of Laboratory Attic Ventilation Tests							
Tem	peratur	e (°F)	Indoor Relative Humidity	Attic Air Changes per hr. (%)	Insulation	Vapor barrier	Conden- sation observed
Indoor	Attic (Outdoor	(%)				
80	45	0	50	None	None	None	Frost
80	37.5	0	50	95			None
80	39.5	0	40	None		, ¹¹	Frost
80	37	0	40	75	**		None
80	40	-2	35	60	**		Frost de- creasing
80	39	0	30	None			Frost
70	15	0	30	None	4 in. mineral	н	Slight frost
					wool		
70	13	-2	30	93	u ~		Vent. not adequate
							to prevent frost
70	12	-2	30	140			Frost de- creased
70	15	0	32	None	"	Asphalt coated	No frost
(market)						paper	on 1
70	15	0	40				Slight frost
70	13	0	40	133	u		Frost disap- peared

perature several times. There was a greater differential in vapor pressure between occupied quarters and attic of House A than for the others because of the high relative humidity of the occupied areas. This, of course, caused greater migration of moisture to the attic of House A.

The ventilation afforded by the louvers was well below that usually recommended, which is $\frac{1}{2}$ sq. in. of opening per sq. ft. of ceiling area directly below, or 1 to 288. The 80 sq. in. afforded by each louver was reduced by 16-mesh wire to 54 sq. in. effective opening. The ratio of louver to ceiling area was 1 to 769, or about three-eighths the recommended ratio.

The curves for House B show that the dew point remained consistently below the minimum observed temperature. The louvers were kept closed from February 12 to the end of the test period. Since condensation conditions were safely avoided at all times, it was apparent that the vapor barrier in the attic floor made ventilation virtually unnecessary by blocking off moisture that would have entered from below. The house had louver openings amounting to about 1 sq. in. to 341 sq. in. of ceiling when the effect of screening was considered, which is fairly close to the recommended minimum.

In House C, the dew point also was well below the lowest attic temperature. In this house, however, the dew point was kept down because the relative humidity in the living quarters remained low. The louver openings were smaller than recommended, even when the openings between roof boards at the gable ends were included, the total making a ratio of 1 to 434.

Effect of Screen on Air Flow

As usually installed in attic gables or eaves, louvers are screened with 16mesh wire cloth to keep out birds, insects and rodents. The effect of screen on the amount of air that flows through ventilators is shown in the following tabulation:

Air Velocity		Air velocity with
without Screen,		16-mesh screen,
ft. per min.		ft. per min.
114		36
258		156
300		208
580		419
885	•	668

Calculations based on the test data show that, for low air velocities such as those induced by temperature alone, a 16-mesh screen may block off practically all air movement.

Laboratory Tests

The attic studies in occupied houses, while revealing valuable data on the relation of condensation to temperature and humidity conditions, afforded no opportunity to vary such factors as construction details, temperatures and relative humidities. To get a clearer picture of the effect of these variables, a test unit was erected at the Forest Products Laboratory.

In tests with this unit, frost was found to form first upon the roof sheathing in the overhang of the eaves and gradually to spread upwards a foot or more. Shortly after forming here, scattered frost spots gathered on protruding nails near the middle height of the roof. It also collected between the roofing and roof boards. The amount varied from light crystals to comparatively heavy deposits. Thermocouple readings showed that attic temperatures were lowest as a rule in the overhanging eave and materially higher at the middle and top of the roof.

The dew point temperature also was lower, for the most part, in the overhanging eave than in the attic proper. The fact that frost will appear in a tight attic space in spite of reasonably good protection against vapor transmission indicates the need for attic ventilation even where vapor barriers are used. The considerable lowering of attic temperatures caused when insulation was placed in the ceiling panel did not increase the formation of frost materially. The amount of ventilation necessary, however, to remove frost had to be greatly increased. This was because lower attic temperatures necessitated removal of much more air to get rid of the vapor.

Although insulation markedly reduced the attic temperature, there still remained a distinct gap between attic and outdoor temperature, averaging about 15° F. This fact has distinct implications with regard to attic space ventilation, suggesting that temperature differences could be utilized to obtain positive circulation. With ventilators designed to take advantage of temperature differences, cold air could enter near the eaves and move upward toward the peak, where the warmed air could be vented to the outside.

TIME-SAVER STANDARDS

FEBRUARY 1949

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

SHOW WINDOW DESIGNS TO PREVENT GLARE

By Dr. Louis Parnes, A.I.A

Note: text and drawings are from Dr. Parnes' new book, Planning Stores that Pay, published by ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

Diagram at right shows how objects across the street or anywhere in front of a show window are reflected by flat glass. When brightness of reflections is greater than that inside window, glare results





(SHOW WINDOW-LOBBY (FLOOR IS . DAYLICHTED)



SHOW-WINDOW-LOBBY (FLOOR IS IN SHADE)

Top: bad daylighting conditions found in many arcades, lobbies. Upper shaded area causes very dark show window interiors. Reflected sunlight in the lower area hits the show windows, producing glare. Bottom: corrected daylighting conditions. Through use of an intermediate canopy, the shaded and daylighted areas are reversed. Two remedies result-(1) all outside spaces under the canopy are darkened, the arcade floor is shaded and reflected sunlight from opposite buildings is shut off; (2) the top of the canopy receives and concentrates the direct and indirect rays and reflects them deep into the interior of the show windows

T is a well-known physical fact that a glass pane reflects in front of a dark background, but not in front of a sufficiently bright one. When the interior of a show window receives insufficient daylight, or is inadequately lit at night, the brighter objects and building fronts across the street are reflected in the show window pane. On the other hand, when the displayed merchandise is brighter than the reflected image of the opposite street front, it is easily seen.

Two methods can be used for the removal of glare:

1. Increasing the brightness of the interior of the show window and of the merchandise displayed.

2. Reducing or deflecting the brightness from external areas and objects being reflected in the window panes.

These two remedies can be only partially applied to the traditional show window system on open streets, but they may be successfully used for windows built according to new functional principles.

The brightness of an object is its general illumination times its reflective ratio, a product which may be magnified by increasing the intensity of the source of light. But the reflective ratio in a window can be increased only slightly through the choice of brighter objects or the use of bright backgrounds. Such measures will help to improve brightness, but when glare is extreme the merchandise displayed must be given an additional supply of brightness. The average show window lighting installation, however, is insufficient for counteracting glare by additional wattage.

Trials with supplementary electric (Continued on page 141) TECHNICAL NEWS AND RESEARCH

PRODUCTS for Better Building

TIME SWITCH

Electrical circuits of a wide variety can be provided with automatic on-off control through the use of the new *Torkmaster* time switch. It has been especially designed to control window lights, signs, oil burners, stokers, intermittent pumping mechanisms, etc.

The time switch can be adjusted in 15 minute steps without special tools.



Time switch can be adjusted in steps of 15 minutes for automatic on-off control

Simple design, heavy-duty construction, a precision motor and improved gearing are said to assure prompt performance without regular attention.

The aluminum case is 3³/₄ by 4 by 5¹/₄ in. and has a special attachment for padlocking. The synchronous, self-starting unit is said to handle up to 30 amperes on a single pole, and operates on 110–125 v., 60 cycle a-c. Tork Clock Co., 1 Grove St., Mount Vernon, N. Y.

AWNING TYPE WINDOW

Window lights of a new awning type window can be adjusted for ventilation by a patented crank mechanism which lowers each section from the top as it opens outward. Besides providing controlled ventilation, this arrangement is said to permit easy cleaning of even the top light from the inside of the building.

The crank-operated window lights can be opened from positions of a fraction of an inch to a full 85°. The crank mechanism locks the window in any desired position.

The Super-Vent window is made of wood sash and frame, completely assembled at the mill. Vertical bronze channels are used in the jamb for smooth operation. Individual adjustment plates are said to assure tight closing. Bronze weather stripping is used at the top and bottom of each sash. Super-Vent Co., 905 W. North Ave., Chicago 14, Ill.

ALUMINUM ARCHITECTURAL SHAPES

Standard architectural shapes in extruded aluminum are now being offered by the Reynolds Metals Co. Shapes now available include thresholds; window sills, jambs, mouldings and stools; handrails with balusters and finishing shapes; base mouldings; copings; facia and gravel stops. Reynolds Metals Co., 2500 S. Third St., Louisville, Ky.

BOILER WITH PROVISION FOR EMERGENCY HEATING

An automatically fired boiler, recently introduced, incorporates a special grate for an emergency coal or wood fire in case of power failure. The emergency grates are located at the front end of the boiler, and the combustion chamber for the oil burner, gas burner or stoker is at the back.

During normal operation, the grates are covered with insulation board in



Special grate in automatic boiler permits emergency firing in case of power failure

order to prevent air leakage. Should the power fail, the insulation can be quickly removed and a fire started before the system has cooled appreciably, according to the manufacturer. The grates are said to be of sufficient size to maintain comfortable conditions during emergency operation. The arrangement of the grate equipment is such that normal burner operation can be resumed immediately after power is restored. H. B. Smith Co., Inc., Westfield, Mass.

AIR CONDITIONING GRILLES

In order to provide decorative quality and good operating performance in the same air-conditioning outlet, the Hendrick Mfg. Co. has developed a deflect-



Vanes (right) for air conditioning outlet are concealed by ornamental grille (left)

ing vane grille which is said to remain effectively concealed when an associated ornamental grille is placed in front. The deflecting vanes of the *Bulator* are constructed so that the air flow can be directed right or left, up or down, or in a combination of directions.

The Bulators are available in a wide variety of design motifs. They can be supplied in a wide range of dimensions, bar sizes and perforations, in aluminum, bronze, copper, Monel, regular and stainless steel. Hendrick Mfg. Co., Carbondale, Pa.

TABLE TOP REFRIGERATOR

Glasco, a table top refrigerator with 5 cu. ft. net capacity, was displayed for the first time at an International Home Furnishings Market in Chicago last month.

Reported to be "ideal for small homes and modern kitchens in which work space and shelf area is at a premium," the unit is 27 in. wide by $24\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep and stands $34\frac{1}{2}$ in. high. Legs or a standard $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. top bring the height to the standard kitchen appliance measurement of 36 in.

Of welded steel construction, bonderized, and with two coats of high temperature baked enamel, the cabinet also features fiber glass insulation and adjustable gliders at the base for easy leveling.

(Continued on page 172)

three mistaken ideas about Sound Conditioning...

THAT SOUND CONDITIONING IS EXPENSIVE ...

mistake

mistake # 9

mistake #1

#

The fact is: The cost of Acousti-Celotex* treatment in many installations hardly exceeds the cost of the usual surface that it replaces. And where a suspended ceiling may be specified, Acousti-Celotex sound conditioning can often be added for only a few cents more a square foot.

THAT SOUND CONDITIONING IS A LUXURY...

The fact is: Letters and figures from thousands of different applications show that, far from being a luxury, Acousti-Celotex sound conditioning is a sound investment . . . because it increases output, cuts down errors, and reduces employee turnover.

THAT THE USE OF SOUND CONDITIONING IS LIMITED TO SPECIFIC AREAS...

The fact is: More and more architects are specifying *overall* use of Acousti-Celotex sound conditioning for truly modern buildings- offices, hospitals, schools, banks, and other structures. Incidentally, *more sound conditioning has been done with Acousti-Celotex products than with any other material.*

YOU ARE INVITED to submit your acoustical problems to a trained sound technician—your nearest distributor of Acousti-Celotex products. His judgment gives you the benefit of the accumulated skill of a quarter century in sound conditioning . . . and experience in installing millions of square feet of Acousti-Celotex products.
Write us today for the name of your nearest distributor in the United States or Canada. Sound conditioning is a sound investment.

*REG. U. S. PAT. OFF



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"Mr. FITZGIBBONS... I hear you are starting a boiler business"



"400" SERIES



"80" SERIES





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-when a million people hailed the unveiling of the Statue of Liberty on Bedloe's Island in New York harbor. That was the year that Patrick Fitzgibbons, experienced journeyman boiler builder, announced the formation of the Fitzgibbons Boiler Company.

The sixty-three years between then and now have seen many industrial organizations come and go-but in the case of Fitzgibbons, it has simply meant better and better Fitzgibbons Steel Boilers, constantly improved manufacturing methods, and a consistently increasing Fitzgibbons reputation among architects, heating contractors, building owners and engineers.

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FEBRUARY 1949

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING

TECHNICAL NEWS AND RESEARCH

SHOW WINDOW DESIGNS TO PREVENT GLARE

(Continued from page 137; continued on page 143)



Section through a show window with a canopy and transom windows. The size of the latter is increased by ''breaking'' the second floor sills, allowing greater access of natural light into the show window lighting have rarely brought about the complete elimination of glare. The necessary electrical costs, plus the cost of removing the resulting high intensities of heat, cannot be squared economically with the advertising value of the show window. From the point of view of economy, therefore, the complete elimination of objectionable daytime glare in show windows by electric lighting alone is still out of the question; though at night, when there are not too many conflicting auto lights, signs, street lamps, or similar sources of reflections, something can be done.

For this reason, special structural measures, transoms and skylights, are needed to admit additional daylight into the interior of show windows and thus cheaply reduce daytime glare. (See drawings this page.)

The second method of counteracting objectionable glare is to shut off or deflect the strong brightness of the reflected objects and surfaces from the glass pane. Shutting off requires structural measures such as canopies (pages 137, 141); deflection requires optical measures as are used with invisible glass panes (page 143).



Left: one of the best ways to stop glare is to extend part of the show window out from the building or to project it completely. Skylights over such windows flood the entire window space evenly with daylight, so that internal and external brightness contrast is equalized and glare eliminated. Right: this show window, with saw-tooth, reflecting canopy and transom windows, has flexible ceiling louvers and a reflector provided for additional daylight control. Dr. Louis Parnes, architect

ELECTRUNITE E.M.T.

- MODERN STEEL PROTECTION FOR MODERN WIRING INSTALLATIONS ...



ELECTRUNITE E.M.T. is ideally suited for installation in concrete because it requires less space than ordinary threaded-type conduit. It is fully approved by the National Electrical Code for this and many other types of installation.

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Unlike other types of conduit, *threadless* ELECTRUNITE E.M.T. never requires thread-cutting or turning into fittings. Hence, its tightly adherent zinc coating is unbroken at coupling or box connector . . . provides continuous, uninterrupted corrosion-protection throughout the entire raceway installation.

ELECTRUNITE E.M.T. is approved by the National Electrical Code and most local codes for installation in open, concealed and concrete slab construction. Inspection by Underwriters' Laboratories provides complete assurance that ELEC-TRUNITE E.M.T. meets all requirements for electrical and mechanical protection.

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ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

SHOW WINDOW DESIGNS TO PREVENT GLARE



In the sketches of the cylindrical glass fronts, (b) is similar to (a) but has a smaller curve, and its effect depends upon the projected canopy to absorb the reflected rays. In both cases the soffits have to be treated with a non-reflecting coat (matte black). These windows collect dust easily and take away display space. Elliptical glass fronts are shown in (c) and (d). The double type has proved to be most satisfactory in practice

Among the optical means for preventing glare are the invisible glass panes; reflections are eliminated by either curving the glass or by tilting a flat glass panel. The required curve or inclination of the pane can be calculated so that all reflective rays may either be deflected towards a dead-black surface or baffle or entirely eliminated from the field of vision



Tilting glass panes throws the reflections outside the observer's field of vision and produces, to a certain height, glarefree windows. Reflected rays are thrown downwards in (a) and (b) where they are absorbed by free space in front of the glass and dark or shaded sidewalks. In (c) and (d) most of the reflected rays are cast towards the dark ceiling which absorbs them. In (e) and (f) the rays are absorbed by both the dark sidewalk and ceiling

ARCHITECTURAL

TECHNICAL NEWS AND RESEARCH

ENGINEERING



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THE RECORD REPORTS

(Continued from page 16)

the federal government channel \$750 million to private lending institutions willing to make GI loans to home-seekers but which had used up their credit funds. This, it was said, probably would be administered by Veterans Administration as the bill was drafted. This point was not certain, however.

Also extreme was the proposition contained therein that if the channeling of funds to private lenders did not work, and if a broadened secondary market for GI loans failed to give the necessary relief, then Veterans Administration be empowered to make loans directly to the qualified veterans.

An interesting feature of the Rogers legislation is that dealing with public works - community facilities - for veteran developments. It provides that \$50 million be made available for construction of these facilities, such as roads, sewers, water mains, etc., in those instances where such installations are not provided through other agencies. This part of the plan would be administered by the Federal Works Agency, and would supply such conveniences only in those cases where state, county or local gov-ernments failed to do so. This would be an outright appropriation without return, whereas the loan provisions call for eventual repayment to the Treasury with interest. An interest charge of "4 per cent or less" is set out.

Mrs. Rogers and her assistants are anxious to see the channeling program tried first, in connection with the expanded secondary market for GI home loans. Then, as a last resort, they would put the government in the lending business by making the loans available directly to qualified veterans through the VA.

There are certain other steps outlined in the Rogers bill, too. It would single out farm veterans for special attention.

The Massachusetts Congresswoman said her proposed law is designed to enable World War II veterans to acquire homes and farms at rentals and prices the veterans can afford to pay.

Spence Favors Controls

Rep. Brent Spence of Kentucky, who regained chairmanship of the House Banking Committee, told the ARCHI-TECTURAL RECORD that he favors standby controls for the President to enable him to allocate scarce building materials for housing construction. This is important since any housing legislation prepared for House consideration would pass through the Spence committee. And Rep. Spence has said there will be housing legislation.

(Continued on page 146)
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THE RECORD REPORTS

(Continued from page 144)

In the opinion of the new chairman, too much "unessential" construction work is going on now. Home building, he said, cannot compete with race tracks, bowling alleys and other structures of the recreational type since builders of the latter can "pay attractive bonuses and lure contractors" away from the home building field.

"We must make some effort to get more materials for homes," he commented. "I would favor allocation of materials from race tracks and similar building to homes."

Rep. Spence had not yet decided whether he would have a housing bill of his own. He said he wanted to consult with Administration leaders and go into the matter thoroughly before formal committee considerations were started. Until such time as the committee hearings did open, the subject of housing would be under intense study in all its aspects, the Kentucky Congressman said.

He summarized his attitude with the observation, "Building is only as effective as the shortest material permits it to be."

Materials Picture Brighter

James M. Ashley, President of the Producers' Council, looks for increased output of construction items in 1949. The producers broke all records in 1948. The men who make the brick, tile, and produce the lumber and plumbing supplies and other housing items are looking for a slightly lowered demand during the next 12 months compared with 1948. This is because only a narrow margin of increase in volume of new construction is being predicted and a firm decrease in the amount of maintenance and repair work is in prospect. Therefore, a materials supply equal to or somewhat larger than 1948's should be available in the year just begun.

The Council books show that dealers' inventories have improved substantially for most products and that the production of some building materials and equipment items has grown to the point where cutbacks have had to be effected. As the supply of all items comes up in volume, construction lumber no longer is any problem as far as supply is concerned, Ashley points out. There is no surplus of millwork, but the backlog of orders on hand has been decreasing in recent months.

More Rental Housing Urged

Mr. Spence, as well as favoring some stand-by controls for allocation of building materials, would like to see incen-(Continued on page 148)



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THE RECORD REPORTS

(Continued from page 146)

tives legislated for more construction of rental housing. That is, he favors some help, probably in the form of financial aid, for those contractors willing to stress the building of rental units. He has said that only 15 per cent of new housing is going up in rental units. And this is not enough of the rental type to suit him. With construction costs as high as they are, he is advising veterans not to buy houses unless they have to.

He also is willing to go along with the current efforts, expressed on so many fronts, for greater economy in home building. He wants legislation to help stimulate more home building in the \$10,000 and under bracket — by private enterprise. If he has his way, private builders will get the material to do the job, if government has to allocate it to them.

The Kentucky Representative was not so exact in his discussion of government participation in the financing of houses. This is a field which he believes will take much more study in view of the current drying up of the mortgage market. He sees lenders willing to take risks on uninsured loans with higher interest rates, favoring these over government-insured loans at lower rates of interest. It is a condition requiring close scrutiny by Congress, and action to correct if that is found necessary, he observed.

VA Will Not Raise Loan Rates

A new tinge was placed on the home financing picture early last month when the Veterans Administration made the flat assertion it would not raise the interest rates on GI loans from 4.0 per cent to 4.5 per cent. VA was given the privilege of raising the rate by the last Congress; it could have voluntarily pushed the figure up to 4.5 per cent with the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury. But the agency conducted its own survey of the mortgage market, consulted with other federal finance agencies, and, after many months of speculation in industry, came out with its statement on January 3.

This development was expected to release some credit for home construction that had been held back by uncertainty as to VA's position. Many segments of the home construction industry had complained that the 4 per cent figure offered by VA conflicted with the 4.5 per cent which Federal Housing Administration permits on its own guaranteed home loans. There was no doubt that VA's final firm decision in the matter, while (Continued on page 150)



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THE RECORD REPORTS

(Continued from page 148)

continuing the "double standard of interest rate" on insured loans, would release some credit held back by lending institutions which waited to see which way the veterans' agency would decide to jump. But the extent of this released volume could not be appraised accurately.

The home builders themselves, through their National Association, called for an improved secondary market to relieve the "serious tightening of mortgage lending during the last four months." N.A.H.B. looked for both good and bad housing legislation to be enacted in the first three or four months of the new session of Congress - now just one month old. "It is our job," said N.A.H.B., "to support whatever bills will assure a continuance of the present volume production for veterans and others and to oppose uncompromisingly all legislation which would place the federal government in control of the industry through construction and operation of public housing, through the control of local slum clearance, etc."

Cooperatives Gaining Slowly

More is certain to be heard of the realtors' cooperative housing plan which is modeled after the one in existence in Sweden for so many years. The National Association of Real Estate Boards appointed a special committee to go into the subject of cooperatives and see if that should be offered as the N.A.R.E.B. solution to the current housing problems, and it seems likely that the plan will form the basis of any recommendations to be made by that body. N.A.R.E.B. claims such a system of cooperative home building, wherein individual groups initiate projects, would keep the whole framework of home construction in the hands of private enterprise even though government financial assistance is involved.

The government already has stepped up the tempo of its cooperative activities under the Housing Act of 1948. Thomas S. Gray, an authority in the field, has been named to head up an office on Cooperative Housing and Yield Insurance. Looking upon these as comparatively new fields, the Federal Housing Administration extends the services of the new office to help solve problems of corporations, charters, by-laws and contract documents involved in setting up a cooperative to build houses.

The plan as it is now operating under the law passed last summer, permits non-profit cooperatives to establish themselves to build either detached or multiple-family dwelling units for occupancy (Continued on page 152)



Development Laboratory and Pilot Plant BATON ROUGE, LA. Architect: Bodman & Murrell, Baton Rouge Contractor: R. P. Farnsworth & Co.,Baton Rouge

> Because windows, once installed, should be largely forgotten, it is doubly important to remember Mesker Windows in the planning stage. The Mesker Steel Windows used in this building are constructed for long, low-maintenance service, smooth operation and permanent weathertightness so they can be forgotten, except for continued satisfaction over the years.

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THE RECORD REPORTS

(Continued from page 150)

by the members. Twelve or more family units of the detached type must be built by each group so established.

If any such group consists primarily of World War II veterans (75 per cent or over), the principal obligation of the venture can be insured for 95 per cent of the amount the FHA administrators estimate as the replacement cost on the basis of conditions prevailing on December 31, 1947. This type of cooperative, then, is set up on an "estimated cost" of construction basis.

The second type of loan insurance is offered to any group composed of a mixture of veterans and non-veterans where the veterans number less than 75 per cent of the total. In such instances, the loan is insured up to 90 per cent of the amount the FHA administrator estimates as the value of the properties when completed.

There are certain strings attached to this type of cooperative home building, too. For one thing, a need for the dwellings proposed in the community where they are to be built must be determined by the FHA administrator before construction can proceed. This is not a serious point now, with the housing shortage still acute, but it could present complications at a later date when the shortage is relieved and veterans or others want to group together to build for themselves in communities already adequately supplied.

Though the cooperative law was passed some seven months ago, there has not been much activity under it so far. At the beginning of 1949 only two projects were under consideration, one of them at the commitment stage.

The purpose of the yield insurance, of course, is to attract investment capital into the production of rental housing for families of moderate income where no mortgage financing is involved.

Under the provisions of Title VII of the National Housing Act, the FHA is authorized to insure the minimum annual amortization charge of 2 per cent of the established investment plus an annual return of 2.75 per cent of the outstanding investment. Established investment means all approved costs prior to initial occupancy.

True, these provisions of the Act have been in effect only since last August and, as FHA points out, a great deal of interest has been shown. But it cannot be said that the cooperative housing and yield insurance portions of the law have "taken" as yet. The naming of Gray as a special assistant was a move toward stimulating activity in these two fields. (Continued on page 154)

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THE RECORD REPORTS (Continued from page 152)

PBA Surveying Plant Needs

Besides the defense program effects on fuel, the architect must watch as well another defense development mentioned previously by the ARCHITECTURAL REC-ORD — the National Industrial Reserve program under the Federal Works Agency. Industrial surveys are being made by the Public Buildings Administration under FWA after taking over of industrial plants needed for defense (plants used during the recent war but not now in use) to determine the work required to put each plant in condition for its originally designed purpose and capacity. Repairs and stand-by preparation will be done either by contract or by custodial maintenance forces.

School Building May Boom

Government economists are fairly confident that a home construction slump, should one take place this year, would bring forth more construction by



Established 1900

local governments. It is known, of course, that a vast number of local school board bond issues have been authorized; throughout the country various town councils merely await better terms from the contractors.

School building is especially likely in the suburbs of almost every large city. Homes and apartments have been going up rapidly; many will be ready for occupancy this spring. Families that seem to be doubled up in town will move. Already overcrowded suburban schools will have to accommodate more children. There will be pressure to put up schools regardless of present costs.

Should industrial and home construction taper off, as some of the economists expect, construction by local governments probably would go ahead even faster than otherwise. Most estimates hold that such construction will be necessary over the next several years. The expense won't have to be borne entirely by present home owners, who already complain about high property taxes; it will be shared by those moving into the new dwellings.

In this connection, considerable school construction for the segregated Negro populations appears to be probable in the border and southern states. Plans include both new construction and repair of old buildings.

Federal Building Studied

The federal government's delay in some of its western construction programs, such as major dams, because of the need to let home building get at least partly caught up first, came to the fore in recent corporate profit hearings of the Congressional Joint Economic Committee. Accompanying the comment was the question of whether the federal government should put up a steel plant to help produce steel for the nation's overall construction requirements. President Truman's inclusion of this idea in his State-of-the-Union message to Congress last month was not wholly unexpected: Senatorial members of the Committee had let drop the word that such a proposal was being pressed in some quarters, and unless steel is forthcoming in quantities more nearly to meet the need, the threat of a government plant might take the form of actual entry into steel production. Steel men, on the other hand, claim that merely building a plant won't answer the problem, that two or three years would be necessary to complete the plant, and that raw materials such as suitable ore and coal for the ore furnaces would present a real problem. Some contend that raw materials aren't sufficiently plentiful to continue as much steel production as is now being recorded, let alone permitting an increase in that capacity.

(Continued on page 156)

You Get Many Construction Advantages

with Pittsburgh Steeltex for Masonry Veneer

You get extra strong walls of *reinforced* brick or stone construction with Pittsburgh Steeltex for masonry veneer. It is a combination of galvanized steel wire mesh and waterproof fibrous backing which eliminates the need for sheathing. The mesh provides positive reinforcing for the one inch mortar slab between the brick and waterproof backing. Steeltex is easily applied requires no radical change in building methods.

In addition to the monolithic mortar slab completely around the structure, Steeltex veneer construction gives you positive protection against moisture penetration—greater fire protection and completely filled mortar joints. For better construction see our catalog in Sweet's or write for your copy of our catalog D.S. 132 to Dept. AR, Pittsburgh Steel Products Company, Grant Building, Pittsburgh 30, Pennsylvania.

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THE RECORD REPORTS (Continued from page 154)

Uniform Standards to be Issued

HHFA's Division of Standardized Building Codes and Materials is working on uniform standards designed eventually to include each broad category of building regulation based upon the application of engineering principles determined as a result of scientific tests and research and the consensus of the best professional judgment. These uniform standards, it is explained, are to be issued in such form that they will be suitable for direct incorporation by code writing authorities into building codes. They will refer to such subjects as use and occupancy, light and ventilation, structural design and quality for walls, floors, ceilings, roofs, foundations and connections, materials, sanitation and gas piping, heating systems, electrical systems, and fire resistive construction. The Division also plans to develop technical information about new materials and new methods of construction.

Moisture Destroys Insulation Values

"Moisture increases the rate of heat transfer through a material, because water, which fills the pores or voids, conducts heat more rapidly than air". . . . Third edition of "Insulation," by Paul D. Close as Technical Secretary of Insulation Board Institute and former Technical Secretary of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers.

Infra is impermeable to water vapor

INFRA — multiple sheet aluminum insulation — is the best way to insulate a basementless house. It is noncondensation-forming. Easy to install, in crawl spaces, for instance. Infra excels as thermal insulation, preventing heat from entering or escaping. Note the remarkable results for DOWNWARD heat flow. These values are permanent. The insulation will remain in place and not tear at the staples or elsewhere because of moistened paper and excessive weight.

The scientific construction of Infra, with multiple separated aluminum sheets, provides 4 reflective spaces and 4 reflective surfaces, each non-condensation-forming and 97% effective against heat rays. The two sheets of aluminum and the accordion partition block convection currents. The two rows of inner, alternating triangular air spaces, and the small mass eliminate conduction as a problem.

Infra C Factors and Rockwool Equivalents C.052 Heat Flow Down, equals 6" Rockwool. C.083 Heat Flow Up, equals 3.97" Rockwool. C.10 Lateral Heat, equals 3¹/₃" Rockwool. Thermal Factors on Every Infra Carton



ON THE CALENDAR

Through March 19: "Piranesi Drawings," exhibition of 79 drawings by Giovanni Battista Piranesi, 18th century Italian architect and etcher, The Pierpont Morgan Library, 29 E. 36th St., New York City.

Through March 20: "American Paintings from the Museum Collection," exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, New York City.

Feb. 11-23: Exhibition of modern architectural rendering and small sculpture, Architectural League of New York, 115 E. 40th St., New York City.

Feb. 12–20: 1949 Home Show of St. Louis, Kiel Auditorium, St. Louis, Mo.; sponsored by the Home Builders Assn. of Greater St. Louis.

Feb. 20-24: "Home Building's Parade of Progress," Annual Convention and Exposition of the National Assn. of Home Builders, Stevens Hotel, Chicago.

Feb. 28-March 4: 1949 Spring Meeting and A.S.T.M. Committee Week, Hotel Edgewater Beach, Chicago.

March 4-indefinite: "Ancient Art of the Near and Middle East," exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City.

March 14-17: Chicago Technical Societies Conference and Show, Hotel Stevens, Chicago.

March 15–18: 81st Annual Convention of the American Institute of Architects, Rice Hotel, Houston, Texas.

March 29-April 1: 3rd National Lighting Exposition, Chicago.

April 11-April 15: Sixth Western Metal Congress and Exposition, Shrine Auditorium, Los Angeles.

PURVES SUCCEEDS KEMPER AT HELM OF THE A.I.A.

Edmund R. Purves, Director of Public and Professional Relations of the American Institute of Architects for the past two years, has been appointed Executive Director of the Institute to succeed Edward C. Kemper, who retired on December 31 after 35 years of service.

"We members of the profession will always be in Mr. Kemper's debt for his leadership and his able management during the past 35 years," A.I.A. President Douglas W. Orr said in making the double announcement. "We are gratified, however, that his successor has had the opportunity to work in the present organization and has benefited thereby from Edward Kemper's years of experience. We are sure that the Institute will continue along the path of success under Edmund Purves' direction as it has in past years with Edward Kemper at the helm."

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32-Page

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DEPT. AR

When Mr. Kemper first joined the A.I.A. in 1913, Mr. Orr said, the organization had only 37 chapters and (Continued on page 158)

Its Simplicity

RENEWABILITY PLUS

ACCESSIBIL the lowest cost maintenance

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The Delany Flush Valve has only 6 moving parts, the simplest assembly of any flush valve and the quickest and easiest to repair.

REMOVABLE

VALVE SEAT

Exclusive with

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Diaphragm VALVE

is your assurance of efficiency

The RENEWABLE DELANY Main Valve Seat, (illustrated right) combined with all the other renewable minimum number of parts (illustrated above) insures lowest possible replacement costs.

The ACCESSIBILITY when repairs are necessary, insures quick replacements of all parts, thus reduces maintenance man hours to the absolute minimum.

The vital factor, when these quick and easy replacements are completed — the initial efficiency of the **DELANY VALVE is INSTANTLY REGAINED.**

Definitely, these features are indisputable proof, that the DELANY VALVE is truly a lifetime installation, and not assumed to be, by inference or association with the permanent fixtures it services.

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1159 members. Today it has 88 chapters. six State Association and six State Organization members and more than 7800 individual members.

Mr. Kemper is a native of Staunton, Va., and has been a member of the bar in the District of Columbia since 1912, a year after he completed his law studies at George Washington University. From 1912 to 1914 he served as secretary to the Secretary of the Interior, Franklin K. Kane. In February of the latter year

he became Executive Secretary of The American Institute of Architects and Executive Director of the Institute in 1946, when the title of the office was changed. In recognition of his service to the architectural profession he was elected an Honorary Member of the A.I.A. and an Honorary Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1946.

Mr. Purves, a native of Philadelphia, received his B.S. in Architecture from

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Rilco has truly made wood a new building material . . has given it amazing new versatility and usefulness and strength. Your designs need no longer be hampered by the limitations of lumber's traditional sizes and shapes. Give your imagination and your skill a free hand. Give your buildings real distinction and practicality. Specify Rilco Glued Laminated Wood Trusses, Arches and Rafters. There are many standard types and our engineers will work with you on your own designs.







Modern metal connectors are used at every truss joint. They develop 80% more of the usable strength of the wood than ordinary bolt connectors and weigh one tenth as much.

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Rilco Laminated Trusses, Arches and Rafters are expertly de-signed by structural engineers. Standard types fit many needs and special trusses can be built to your design and specification.



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Edmund R. Purves of the A.I.A.

the Architectural School of the University of Pennsylvania. Registered in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Rhode Island, and a Fellow of the A.I.A., he has held a number of posts in architectural societies. He has served as president of the Pennsylvania Society of Architects, was regional director of the A.I.A. from 1938 to 1941, and in 1946 was a delegate to the International Technical Congress in Paris. He first joined the A.I.A. executive staff in Washington in 1941, serving as their Washington representative for a year. Following a three year leave of absence for military service he returned to the Institute and in 1946 was made Director of Public and Professional Relations.

WITH THE A.I.A.

Wright to Receive Gold Medal

One of the highlights of the A.I.A. convention at Houston next month will be the presentation of the Gold Medal of the Institute to Frank Lloyd Wright, "dean of American architects." The award was voted by the Board of Directors "in recognition of Mr. Wright's distinguished contribution to the profession of architecture."

Mr. Wright is probably the world's most honored architect: he is an honorary member of the American Institute of Decorators and the National Institute of Arts and Letters, the Academie Royale des Beaux Arts D'Anvers, the National Academy of Cuba, the Instituto Central de Architectos in Brazil, the Royal Institute of British Architects, the National Academy of Architects in Mexico and the National Academy of Finland. Other honors include the Royal Gold Medal of the Royal Institute of British Architects, conferred upon him by King George VI in 1941.

Honor Awards Program Announced

Early last month it was announced that for the first time a National Honor Awards program has been set up by the A.I.A. to designate the best residences and schools which have been completed in the past four years. The program is (Continued on page 160)



Dry fresh paint and plaster in almost $\frac{1}{2}$ the time . . . with

the new FRIGIDAIRE **Electric Dehumidifier**

Now you can put new rooms or offices into use days ahead of time! Install Frigidaire Electric Dehumidifiers that dry out fresh paint and plaster in almost 1/2 the time . . . one unit will take as much as four quarts of water out of a newly plastered room overnight!

Prevent moisture damage in these places, too!

The Frigidaire Electric Dehumidifier is an appliance of "one-hundred-andone" uses. Among the many places it can be used to excellent advantage are rooms where merchants store:

- Shoes
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- Furniture
- Hardware
- Paper products

Its all-steel construction, light weight (85 lbs.) makes it easily portable . . . plugs into any 115v. 50/60 cycle outlet. Operation is completely automatic. Powered by the famous Frigidaire Meter-Miser mechanism, cuts current cost and has a 5-year warranty.

Reduce dampness; stop rust, mold and mildew in -

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- Pressing rooms Organ lofts
 - Candy kitchens
- . Bank vaults
- Bakeries
- Photographic dark
 Scientific rooms
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Home basements

Home workshops

Industrial kitchens

This revolutionary new Frigidaire appliance pays for itself in the protection it affords and the time its saves.



Facts about these **Frigidaire Products** yours for the asking

Check this list of Frigidaire products you want to know aboutsign your name and address and mail to Frigidaire Division, Dayton (1), Ohio. (In Canada, Leaside 12, Ontario), or see your Frigidaire Dealer-find his name in Classified Telephone Directory.

Household Refrigerators □ 9 models from apartment house 6 cu. ft. to 'Tandem'' 14.5 cu. ft.



Electric Ranges

□ 7 models from apartment house RK-3 to RK-70 which has two Twin-Unit Even-Heat ovens.



Electric Water Heaters □ 30 to 80 gals. Magne-

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□ 8 cu. ft., Meter-Miser mechanism. Others up to 26.5 cu. ft. size.

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🗆 Electric Dehumidifier
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- supplies
- Linens
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planned as an annual event, with other types of building scheduled for judging in future years.

Each chapter of the A.I.A. will submit entries of photographs and reproductions of plans for homes and schools that have been designed by corporate members of the Institute and completed since January 1, 1945. The buildings must be located in the United States or its territories and possessions. Winners will be announced at the A.I.A. convention at Houston next month, and as many of the entries as can be accommodated will be exhibited at that time. Certificates will be presented to the winners.

Albert F. Heino, of Chicago, is chairman of the committee handling the program. Serving with him are: Harold R. Sleeper, New York, vice-chairman; Richard M. Bennett, Chicago; Samuel E. Lunden, Los Angeles; and Charles F. Cellarius, Cincinnati, ex-officio. Judging will be done by two national juries —



one for schools and the other for homes — each consisting of one layman and four architects.

COMPETITIONS ANNOUNCED

Brooklyn Chapter, A.I.A.

The Brooklyn Chapter, A.I.A., has announced the 19th architectural competition conducted annually by the Chapter. The subject this year will be a Youth Center Building to serve as a model in neighborhoods and communities in which there exists a pressing need to meet the growing problem of juvenile delinquency.

The competition is open to all students who have legal residence in the territorial area of the Chapter, who attend accredited Schools of Architecture anywhere in the United States, and to architectural draftsmen employed in or residing in the territorial area. Prizes will be awarded as follows: first, \$100; second, \$50; third, \$25. Further information may be obtained from Vito P. Battista, Chairman, Committee on Education, Brooklyn Chapter, A.I.A., 26 Court St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Stewardson Memorial Scholarship

The Managing Committee of the John Stewardson Memorial Scholarship in Architecture has announced a competition for a scholarship of the value of \$1300, the holder of which is to pursue the study of architecture in this country or abroad as determined by the Committee and under its direction.

Citizens of the United States who shall have studied or practiced architecture in the state of Pennsylvania for the period of at least one year immediately preceding the scholarship award are eligible to compete. Candidates must be not less than 22 or more than 32 years of age on March 15, 1949.

Applicants are required to forward to the Committee not later than March 15, 1949, the information called for in the Registration Blank which will be provided upon request by the Secretary, Henry D. Mirick, Room 809, 12 S. 12th St., Philadelphia 7, Pa.

Welded Bridges

A new award program to advance the progress of welded bridge design has been announced by the trustees of the James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation. The program offers awards to bridge or structural engineers for the best designs of a specified, welded highway bridge: \$3000 as a first award; \$1500, second; \$750, third; and 10 honorable mention awards of \$100 each.

Complete details of the program may be obtained from The James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation, Cleveland 1, Ohio. The competition opened on January 1, and closes on June 30.

(Continued on page 162)



Washrooms rank as one of the four most important factors in good working conditions-according to a survey of workers from 400 plants.

In these hands... employee relations at work

Well kept washrooms help demonstrate the consideration a company holds for its employees—and customers, too. Don't you feel a firm is inconsiderate when the washroom isn't right?

Clean, *modern*, *carefully* planned washrooms show thoughtfulness for the other person. You're doing your client a real service by making sure his washrooms *are* right.

ScotTissue Towels are a symbol of the right kind of washroom. Include ScotTissue Towel cabinets in your washroom planning. Send for our free booklet that's filled with helpful suggestions, well-tested plans and diagrams (by an architect specializing in this field) for large and small washrooms, etc. Write to the Scott Washroom Advisory Service, Chester, Pa. Trade Marks "ScotTissue," "Duralose," "Washroom Advisory Service," Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.



SCOTTISSUE TOWELS

Symbol of the right kind of washroom

THE RECORD REPORTS (Continued from page 160)

OLD HOUSE REOPENED

The Hammond-Harwood House in Annapolis, Md., owned and operated by the Hammond-Harwood House Assn., Inc., closed for some months for redecoration and refurnishing, is now open to the public again. One of the outstanding examples of Colonial American architecture of the second half of the 18th century in America, the house today looks much as it looked when built in 1770. A considerable amount of 18th century furniture has been acquired recently and new curtains for the entire house have been made, copied from old documents by Franco Scalamandre and designed by Mrs. Lounsberry.

CIVIL SERVICE ARCHITECTS

The San Francisco Civil Service Commission has announced a nation-wide examination for architects which will be administered at convenient places throughout the United States. The



Zoology Laboratory, Municipal University, Omaha, Nebr.

Here's what "Kewaunee Equipped" Means to Architects . . .

The list of high school and elementary school laboratories that are "Kewaunee Equipped" reads like a Blue Book of the Educational Field.

Leading Architects know that with Kewaunee Engineers on the job at every stage, from planning to final inspection, no detail is overlooked.

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salary offered is \$500 to \$600 monthly.

Applications and examination bulletins may be obtained from the abovenamed commission, Room 151 City Hall, San Francisco, Calif. Applications must be received by April 16, and examinations will begin on May 17.

AT THE COLLEGES New Studytour Announced

Columbia University students of town planning and housing will take to the air next summer for a 10,000-mile studytour through South America and the Caribbean. Similar to last year's field trip through the United States, the 10-week summer session will be conducted by the Planning and Housing Division of the School of Architecture at Columbia, and is open to from 20 to 30 qualified students and professionals in the field. Director will be J. Marshall Miller, Associate Professor of Planning at Columbia.

For further information, address Professor Miller at 504 Avery, Columbia University, New York 27, N. Y. Applications must be approved by March 15 if reservations are to be assured.

Fellowships Available

Applications for fellowships, scholarships and assistantships for graduate study, research and teaching at Illinois Institute of Technology will be accepted until March 15, 1949, according to an announcement by Dr. W. A. Lewis, dean of the graduate school.

Fellowships are available in special fields of study — power systems engineering, gas technology and industrial research. Scholarships covering tuition are available for exceptional students.

Teaching assistantships are open in all departments, on both half-time and third-time bases.

Applications should be addressed to the Examiner of Credentials, Graduate School, Illinois Institute of Technology, Technology Center, Chicago 16.

New Department at L.S.U.

A new department of Architectural Engineering will be in operation at the College of Engineering, Louisiana State University, next September, Dean Leo Jos. Lassalle of the College has announced. The department will be headed by O. J. Baker, A.I.A., graduate of the University of Illinois, and at present Director of Low-Cost Housing Research at Louisiana State.

Oklahoma Offers New Degree

The University of Oklahoma has announced a new curriculum in the Graduate College leading to a Master's degree in Regional and City Planning. The program is designed to meet the increasing demand in Oklahoma and the Southwest (Continued on page 164)

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

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OUR SPECIFICATIONS CALL

FOR CONTROLLED LIGHTING NORT Н

The use of carefully-designed reflectors behind the light source and controlling refractors in front of the light source give this shallow,

front of the light source give this shallow, attractive fixture a degree of light distribu-tion that is unequalled by any comparable unit. The "impossible" light curve is proved by ETL data (available on request). A glass top and metal housing effectively keep dust from the two prismatic ribbed glass panels, which are completely framed and hinged to open easily. North Star may be surface mounted or hung on a graceful matching stem set, either singly or in continuous rows, with unusual simplicity. For handsome styling, an unprecedented degree of light in the working zone, and low surface brightness, specify Smithcraft's North Star.



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A shallow unit, modern in styling, with an exclusive louver pattern which provides excellent shielding and low surface brightness. The cut-off is extremely effective-40° crosswise, 30° lengthwise. The louvers are held

by Smithcraft Duo-Cam Hangers (patent pending), which permit hinging from either side or complete removal without use of snaps, screws, or similar holding devices. The reflectors extend over the tops of the lamps to minimize dust accumulation. Dayliter may be installed individually or in continuous rows, surface or pendant. For high light output in the working zone and low surface brightness, specify Smithcraft's Dayliter.

Complete technical data available on all Smithcraft Fluorescent Fixtures. Write today.

THE RECORD REPORTS (Continued from page 162)

for professionally trained personnel in civic planning and leadership, and has been approved by the State Regents of Higher Education. It calls for not less than 54 credit hours of graduate study in architecture, civil engineering, sociology and government.

Yale Award to Markelius

Sven Markelius, internationally known Swedish architect and a member of the United Nations' Architectural Commission, has been chosen to receive Yale University's Howland Memorial Prize.

The Howland Medal is "awarded to the citizen of any country in recognition of some achievement of marked distinction in the field of literature or fine arts or the science of government." It was last presented in 1944 to Field Marshal Sir John Greer Dill, Chief of the British Joint Mission to the U. S.

Mr. Markelius is coming to this country this spring, and will serve as Visiting



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HORN, with years of experience and skill, offers to every school planner the services of the Horn Engineering Department. Horn installations are guaranteed.



Critic in Advanced Architectural Design at Yale. The presentation of the Medal will take place at that time.

Research Project at Lehigh

A two-year research project aimed at checking and improving design procedures of shell roof structures has been assigned to the Fritz Engineering Laboratory of Lehigh University by the Roberts and Schaefer Engineering Co. of Chicago, Dr. Harvey A. Neville, Director of the University's Institute of Research, has announced.

Under the contract, experimental and analytical research will be conducted on the design of shell structures of reinforced concrete of the type used in large airplane hangars or in domes of monumental buildings. Dr. Bruce G. Johnston, director of the Fritz Laboratory, will supervise the project.

Dean Arnaud Honored

Leopold Arnaud, Dean of the School of Architecture of Columbia University since 1937, was inducted into the French Legion of Honor on December 10 in a private ceremony at the French Consulate in New York. The honor was conferred by Ludovic Chancel, Consul-General in New York, in behalf of the French government for Dean Arnaud's "championship of French methods of thought and education."

Tau Sigma Delta Recognized

Tau Sigma Delta, national honor society in Architecture and Allied Arts, has been admitted to the Association of College Honor Societies, reports Ernest H. Trysell, A.I.A., Grand Chapter Recorder of the Fraternity.

OFFICE NOTES Offices Opened, Reopened

Alfred H. Abernethy, A.I.A., has announced the opening of his new office at East Market and Legion Streets, Johnson City, Tenn.

Paul James Huston, A.I.A., has opened a new office at 543 Bryant St., Palo Alto, Calif.

Bernard Kessler, R.A., has opened an office for the practice of architecture at Bennington College, Bennington, Vt.

John S. McDonald, Architect-Engineer, has opened a new office at 2438 Glenmore Ave., Dayton 9, Ohio.

Michael Saphier Associates, Industrial Designers, have opened new offices at 19 W. 44th St., New York 18.

New Addresses

The following new addresses have been announced:

John Kellam Associates New York Office (Thomas M. Schriber and Gordon T. Barlow), Room 826 Chrysler Bldg., 405 Lexington Ave., New York 17.

(Continued on page 166)



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What's in the box? It's a box of heating comfort. A Trane Type A Convector-radiator. Quick relief for heating problems. Sure cure for cold floors and overheated ceilings.

These Active-Air Convectors give you an installation to be proud of. Not only in performance, but in appearance, too. They are designed so they can be streamlined into the wall line. None of that plumbing-in-the-living-room look.

They make housekeeping simpler, more pleasant. No radiator dust traps. Rooms stay cleaner . . . are evenly, healthfully, *quickly* warmed all over, at low fuel cost.

Cost less than cast iron to buy. Cost less to handle. They help cut overall cost of steam and hot water heating. When used on a hot water system with the Trane *high-head* circulator and regular Trane hot water specialties, a further saving can be made through the use of smaller pipe . . . A bonus in results without a bonus in price.

Remember this: You don't have to *explain* when you specify TRANE—it's the oldest name in Convector-radiators.

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Manufacturing Engineers of Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning Equipment—Unit Heaters, Convector-radiators, Heating and Cooling Coils, Fans, Compressors, Air Conditioners, Unit Ventilators, Special Heat Exchange Equipment, Steam and Hot Water Heating Specialties...IN CANADA, TRANE COMPANY OF CANADA, LTD., TORONTO.

Trane Convector-radiators really fit—in home, office, shop or institution



George Nelson, Designer, 20 W. 55th St., New York City.

Rink & Hoffman, Associates, Industrial Designing and Store Planning, 314 N. W. 23rd Ave., Portland 10, Ore.

Richard Boone Rogers, Architect, 14 E. Church St., Orlando, Fla.

New Firms, Firm Changes

A. M. Atkinson, A.I.A., Architect-Engineer, has announced the association of David G. Murray, Architect, with him in the practice of the profession of architecture under the firm name of Atkinson and Murray, with offices in the Thompson Bldg., Tulsa 3, Okla.

Paul W. Drake and Elmer S. Tuthill have announced the formation of the partnership of Drake and Tuthill Associates, Architects and Engineers, 100 Summit Ave., Summit, N. J.

The firm name of Michael Drazen and Associates has been changed to Drazen and Associates, Consulting Engineers,



Width, 4 feet. Lengths, 4 to 12 feet. Thickness, 5/32 in. Complete line of aluminum alloy, presdwood, and plastic mouldings for all requirements.

NEW CONSTRUCTION OR MODERNIZATION

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Traditional or modern, conservative or boldly individual – regardless of the interior design – Marlite plastic-finished panels meet all the requirements for beautiful, economical walls and ceilings. Quickly and easily installed over old walls or new, Marlite is adaptable to any architectural treatment. Here is a deluxe material which keeps costs well within the most restricted budget. Complete details are available in Sweet's File, Architectural.

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and offices have been moved to 8135 Forsythe Blvd., St. Louis 5, Mo.

Harrison Gill has announced that Harold E. Miller, A.I.A., and Chas. F. McKirahan have become associates in his practice and that the name of his firm has been changed to Harrison Gill & Associates, Architects. Address: Chattanooga Bank Bldg., Chattanooga, Tenn.

The firm of Kaelber and Waasdorp, Architects, will continue to conduct business in its present offices, Hiram Sibley Bldg., 311 Alexander St., Rochester 7, N. Y., under the direction of Leonard A. Waasdorp, A.I.A. William G. Kaelber, F.A.I.A., senior member of the firm, died on November 21st.

A new firm, RENDU, with offices at 400 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg, Pa., has been organized for the purpose of doing architectural delineation for architects. The firm, composed of free lance renderers, will deliver finished drawings within 15 days.

B. H. Whinston, Architect, has announced that his son, Bertram Lee Whinston, is now associated with him in the general practice of architecture under the firm name of Benjamin H. and Bert Lee Whinston, Architects, with offices at 465 Lexington Ave., New York 17. The younger Mr. Whinston is a graduate of Yale University School of Architecture, and holds a Master of Science in Architecture degree from Columbia University.

ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS

George Bain Cummings, of Binghamton, N. Y., has been elected to the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Architects by the members of the Board to fill the vacancy caused by the death on November 21st of William G. Kaelber of Rochester, N. Y. Mr. Cummings will serve as Regional Director for the New York District until the convention in March. He is a Fellow of the Institute, a graduate of the College of Architecture at Cornell University, and a member of the architectural firm of Conrad and Cummings of New York. From 1924 through 1926 he served as president of the Central New York Chapter, A.I.A., and since 1938 has been a member of the New York State Board of Examiners of Architects.

F. Ray Leimkuehler, Architect, and member of the firm of Maguolo and Quick, of St. Louis, has been appointed to the newly created post of Chief Architect of the St. Louis Board of Education. Twice president of the St. Louis Architectural Club, and a former national president of Scarab, honorary architectural fraternity, Mr. Leimkuehler is well known for his work in the school field.

Theodore H. Maenner of Omaha was installed as president of the National Association of Real Estate Boards at a banquet on January 11 in Washington.



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For modern showers the Safety of Powers Mixers is indispensable





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Safest for use by children, the aged or infirm.

NEWS FROM CANADA

Dominion Government economists say Canada spent \$3 billion on new capital investment in 1948, or 25 per cent more than in 1947. Much of it went into increased building costs and higher prices for machinery and other equipment. But about 10 per cent represents actual physical expansion on the part of the government, industries, institutions, farmers and house builders.

An investment record of this size is a phenomenal achievement for a nation

By John Caulfield Smith

having less than 13 million population. During the war years Canada invested \$4.5 billion in plants and equipment, mostly in government funds. Yet in 1948 private business alone accounted for more than one-third of that amount. And indications are that there's still plenty of steam behind the country's economic growth!

Construction, always a barometer of confidence, reached a contract award total of nearly \$1 billion. House building



Here's a good example of what laboratory acids will do to an ordinary drain line.

You can avoid costly replacements by specifying Duriron for the laboratory drain lines in your new building. Duriron corrosion-proof pipe provides a permanent, non-leak installation for practically any corrosive.

Duriron can be hidden in walls or floor and forgotten. It will ordinarily serve as long as the building stands.

The corrosion-resistance of Duriron pipe is uniform through its entire wall thickness-there's no lining to chip, spall or crack. It is abrasion resistant. It will not warp or sag from heat.

For complete details write for Bulletin #703. DURCO Adv. 82-GM

DAYTON 1, OHIO



was particularly strong, despite prices about twice the prewar level. Residential contracts totaled nearly \$400 million, compared with a little over \$200 million for 1947. Commercial and institutional buildings accounted for contracts running well over \$300 million, an increase of 25 per cent over 1947. Engineering works at \$200 million were up 15 per cent, while factory construction registered the only decline. At less than \$80 million, it was down one-third.

Stone Masons Now Air Borne

The Canadian construction industry is pinched by a shortage of skilled mechanics. It's estimated, for instance, that there are less than a hundred qualified stone masons in the country. None of these is free at present. However, the contractor for a new cut stone athletic building on the University of Western Ontario campus at London, hit upon an original solution to the problem. He simply flew the required number of masons over from Scotland!

Architects in Short Supply

Architects and engineers were in short supply during 1948, according to a report by Hon. Humphrey Mitchell, federal Minister of Labor. To some extent the employment gap was filled by university graduates, but openings for experienced technical personnel remained fairly constant at between 700 and 800. The number available varied from month to month at about 225. It is expected that the large graduating class of 1949 - estimated at approximately 3200, in all branches of engineering - will go far towards balancing the supply and demand situation.

Mr. Wright Spanks Education

In the opinion of Frank Lloyd Wright, North Americans have too much education for the good of true freedom. He expressed this view during a recent lecture sponsored by the Architectural Club of the University of Toronto.

"We want effects, but don't go into causes," Mr. Wright asserted. "We ourselves don't understand the true freedom of free enterprise or we wouldn't sell it down the river at the first scare." He noted that there was a lot of "whining" for security, "but the security and freedom which are required are protection for the individual to be himself."

Low Grade Lumber Prices Sag

While higher grades of lumber, or "clears," still sell at or close to previous prices, lower grades piling up in unsold stocks in sawmills and yards across the country are being offered at \$5 to \$15/M board feet than they commanded.

The Pacific Coast is more seriously affected than the East. United Kingdom (Continued on page 170)

Now...A Classroom Lighting Installation Meeting or Bettering All Recommendations Of American Standard Practice

An Engineering Report on Over-ALL Lighting by an Independent Consulting Illuminating Engineer. Write for your copy.

This is undoubtedly one of the first classrooms to be measured against the recommendations of American Standard Practice for School Lighting, sponsored by I.E.S. and A.I.A., and approved September 20, 1948. This child-conditioned classroom in John Simpson Junior High School, Mansfield, Ohio, meets or betters all artificial lighting requirements of American Standard Practice, as well as (with the exception of the floor) those of the National Council on Schoolhouse Construction.

Description of Classroom: Room 101, John Simpson Junior High School, Mansfield, Ohio. 30 feet long, 22 feet wide, 12 feet high. Ceiling white. Walls yellow and turquoise. Natural finish seating. Light green chalkboards. Ivory tackboards. Double row of diffusion screens mounted at windows.

Lighting Installation: Four continuous rows of two-lamp, 40W Wakefield Star units with luminous indirect plastic reflectors using 3500° white fluorescent lamps.

Weather Conditions: The survey was made on November 26, 1948, seven months after installation. The day was dark and cloudy with sky brightness so low the brightness of the diffuser at the window was approximately the same as that of the wall adjacent to it (66 footlamberts).

A copy of the complete detailed engineering report is yours for the asking. It is interesting to note that all equipment and materials used in this classroom are regularly available from manufacturers' stocks, and we will be glad to supply manufacturers' names, catalog numbers and descriptions of materials on request. Write to The F. W. Wakefield Brass Company, Vermilion, Ohio.



Comparison of Brightness Ratios

	Room 101 John Simpson Junior High School	American Stand- ard Practice for School Lighting	National Counci on Schoolhouse Construction
Brightness of paper to brightness of desk top	1 to 1/1.6	1 to 1/3	1 to 1/5
Brightness of paper to brightness of floor	1 to 1/9	1 to 1/10	1 to 1/5
Brightness of paper to brightness of ceiling	1 to 2.78 (max.)	1 to 10	1 to 10
Brightness of luminaires to surfaces adjacent to them in the visual fields	3.4 to 1 (max.)	20 to 1	no recommendation
Brightness difference in the surrounding field between the brightest and darkest surfaces	18.5 to 1	no recommendation	50 to 1
Brightness difference in the peripheral field between the brightest and darkest surfaces	24 to 1	no recommendation	250 to 1
Lighting level	38 ft. c. lowest; 69 average	30 ft. c. min.	20 ft. c. min.

Comparison of Reflectances

Ceiling	Above 85%	80 to 85%	85%
Walls	62 to 70%	50 to 70%	50% min.
Trim	48%	30 to 40%	40 to 60%
Tackboards	67%	50 to 60%	no recom.
Chalkboards	24%	15 to 20%	30% max.
Desk Tops	30 to 55%	35 to 50%	30 to 40%
Floor	22%	15 to 30%	30 to 40%



THE COMMODORE

THE GRENADIER I

FEBRUARY 1949

NEWS FROM CANADA (Continued from page 168)





WITH FERALUN SAFETY TREADS

Workmen at the Curtiss Wright Plant, Propeller Division, Caldwell, N. J., go up and down these stairs ... safe at every step.

Their shoe soles come to grips with non-slip Feralun Safety Stair Treads, cast iron, with wear-resistant abrasive embedded right in the walking surface.

Heavy traffic day in, day out — but Feralun Safety Treads, built to take hard use, stay non-slip . . . last and last. And that means low maintenance . . . and high safety.

4 TYPES:

Cast iron base FERALUN Bronze base . . . BRONZALUN Aluminum base . . . ALUMALUN Nickel bronze base . . NICALUN 3 SURFACE STYLES:

hatched . . . plain . . . fluted

Use coupon below to get our free, illustrated catalog. Also consult Sweet's File, Architectural, 13 a-8.

and last.	Sweet's Flie, Alchitectural, 15 a-o.
AMERICAN ABRASIVE ME 460 Coit Street Irvin	
Please send me your thresholds, elevator sil	catalog on non-slip stair treads, floor plates, ls, and safety tile.
	ir safety engineers contact me.
Company	
Street	
City	

Left: skating rink, pool, bowling alleys, badminton and squash courts, dining room and lounge will be provided by the new Winnipeg Winter Club, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Moody and Moore are the architects

orders recently placed in British Columbia are only half as big as hoped for and call for delivery of high quality lumber only. Since the province can sell all the "clears" it produces at home and in the United States, the British deal won't alter current prices for this commodity. But, as regards lower grades of lumber, British Columbia seems to be nearing a position of over-production. Some marginal mills in the interior of the province already have closed.

Houses Take Longer to Finish

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports that 58,402 dwelling units were completed in Canada in the first 10 months of 1948. During that time construction commenced on 78,553 units. The number under construction stood at 62,890 units at the end of October. For the first time since April, completions exceeded starts.

The average length of time required to build dwelling units completed in October was 6.1 months. This is a slight increase over the September figure of 5.4 months, and may be attributed to a shift in emphasis from starts to completions.

Graduates Average \$205 a Month

The 1948 crop of engineering and science graduates received an average starting salary of \$205 per month, according to an announcement by Hon. Humphrey Mitchell, Minister of Labor. This sum compares with \$200 for graduates of 1947, and \$176 for those of '46. The figures were compiled by the Bureau of Technical Personnel from a case study of 1000 graduates with bachelor's degrees, involving about 150 employers. Initial salaries were concentrated in a fairly narrow range, with nearly 90 per cent of the graduates earning between \$175 and \$225 per month.

Service Lack May Hit Housing

How will housing fare in 1949? Canada entered the year with the largest carryover of uncompleted dwelling units in its entire history — about 55,000. This implies that completions for 1949 will be high, since housing activity normally lags a year behind general business conditions. If there's any softening of the new house market it isn't likely to appear till 1950.

Housing's eye, however, has a cinder in it. At the end of the war many of our cities and towns had a surplus of serviced land. This has now been exhausted. Expansion of services proportionate to (Continued on page 188)

Why EVERYBODY'S looking into BASE-RAY—a practical approach to radiant panel heating



ADIANT BASEBOARD

Remember, it was Burnham who pioneered the development of radiant baseboard panel heating. Burnham's BASE-RAY* Radiant Baseboards have now been on the market for nearly three years.

As time passes, Mr. & Mrs. Home Owner are going to be more and more frequently asking for your opinion of this sensational new method of radiant heating.

There are sound reasons why you can we have confidently recommend BASE-RAY Radiant Baseboards.

Our experience has given us ample opportunity to iron out

Durnham Corporation PIONEERS OF RADIANT BASEBOARD HEATING

IRVINGTON, N.Y., Dept. AR 29



the "bugs" which are usually present in any

radically new product-and to work out in-

stallation procedures that time has proven

*Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

	term and functioner family	il coupon below for Book- which gives ratings and tallation data on BASE-RAY liant Baseboards.
	Burnham Corporation Irvington, New York	Dept. AR 29
	Please send me copy of "R Guide on BASE-RAY Radi	
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ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING

TECHNICAL NEWS AND RESEARCH

The Glasco contains a Tecumseh hermetic unit and its design allows for flush fitting with standard cabinets. J. H. Rasmussen and Company, 1454 Merchandise Mart, Chicago 54, Ill.

CABINETS FOR BLUEPRINTS

A new filing cabinet for blueprints, Draw-In-Dex, has been designed to meet the twin problems of safety and accessibility for prints and similar materials

(Continued from page 138)

such as photostats, charts and photo blowups.

With space for 1000 prints, and an index for quick location of any item, the cabinet is 4 ft. high, $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. wide and 20 in. deep. Drawings are attached to manila hangers on suspension rods which, the manufacturers explain, are so designed that when the front panel is opened any drawing may be immediately filed or removed.



Draw-In-Dex has an 18-gauge steel top and 16-gauge reinforced steel sides and comes in grey, green and (mahogany) brown. Empire Development Corp., 52 Broadway, New York 4, N. Y.



Filing cabinet holds, indexes 1000 prints

MODEL BUILDINGS OF LUCITE

Models of single and multi-story structures are now being made of clear lucite at $\frac{1}{4}$ in. scale to enable architects, engineers and layout men to study building and planning problems.

The models are built following exact print dimensions to scale and have engraved scale grid floors. Models of any type of commercial or industrial building are complete with all columns, stairwells, elevator shafts and other building characteristics. Outside walls are indicated with white lucite. Visual Planning Equipment Co., Inc., Pennsylvania Ave. at River, Oakmont, Pa.

HOME FIRE EXTINGUISHER

Especially designed to combat flammable liquid fires and electrical fires, a new portable low-cost fire extinguisher has been developed for home protection.

Fyre-Freez, which weighs less than five pounds, consists of a slim steel cylinder containing carbon dioxide under pressure, and is equipped with an insulated nozzle at one end. A turn of the nozzle releases carbon dioxide in the form of a cloud of dry ice snow which dilutes the oxygen content of the air around the fire and smothers the blaze before it can spread.

Intended for use against home fires starting in kitchens, basements, garages and workshops, the extinguisher is installed in a simple wall bracket, and the (Continued on page 174)

The PROFESSIONAL BUILDERS' BULLETIN

An "Idea Department" from the Engineers of Ingersoll

INGERSOLL ADDS NEW MODEL UTILITY UNIT



Simplified Panel Unit Includes All Basic Plumbing in Minimum Space—

HEATING UNIT MAY BE PURCHASED SEPARATELY!

A new, simplified Utility Unit has been added to the Ingersoll line. It includes all basic plumbing plus a complete kitchen and bath. Unlike the standard Unit, the heating plant is not an integral part of the new model. The new Ingersoll "88" or other furnaces may be purchased separately if desired.

This unit is built around a compact, 10-inch-wide panel core. To meet your codes there is a choice of four vent and stack assemblies. Further flexibility is provided in a choice of lead, cast iron and steel materials in vents, stacks, wastes and undergrounds.

Assembled by skilled A. F. of L. Building Trade Mechanics, the

(C)

new Panel Unit combines the economies of pre-engineered assembly with the flexibility of buying small-home utilities in individual components. It is equally adaptable to homes with or without basements, to multi-storied apartments and to tourist courts.







Enthusiastic acceptance everywhere has greeted the recently introduced Ingersoll "88" Furnace. Gas-fired, it has an output of 50,000 B.T.U.s, yet occupies less than 3 square feet of floor space. It has been approved by A.G.A. for installation within walls—an interliner jacket keeps the exterior cool. It is equally efficient either as a space heater or for duct-type heat distribution. New Wholesalers Report on Sales of Ingersoll Utility Unit

2)



Reports from the more than 100 wholesalers added by Ingersoll in recent months, indicate excellent sales activity for the Ingersoll Unit. "The Unit fills a real need," is the the most frequent explanation.



Write for yours today! INGERSOLL UTILITY UNIT DIVISION Borg-Warner Corporation Dept. M2, 321 Plymouth Court Chicago 4, Illinois

ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING

TECHNICAL NEWS AND RESEARCH

manufacturers report that it can be handled easily by the housewife without special training or complicated directions. Walter Kidde & Co., 40 E. 34th St., New York 16, N. Y.

GAS WATER HEATERS

Norge has introduced two new automatic gas water heaters for natural, manufactured and L.P. gases which feature drilled, raised-port burners; blan-

(Continued from page 172)

ket-type Fiberglas insulation; heavyduty (300 lb. test) tank; spiral baffled internal flue; dial temperature control; safety shut-off; and concealed hot and cold water connections. The manufacturer reports that rapid heat transfer and maximum recovery are achieved with the burner located in the center of the base and the internal flue off-center in the tank. Each model is available in 20-, 30-, 45- and 66-gal. sizes. Norge

The third of a series in the interest of more efficient use of steel... a vital American resource.

SAME ANCHORAGE... only 1/2 the STEEL!



LACLEDE MULTI-RIB REINFORCED BARS REQUIRE LESS THAN HALF THE EMBEDDED LENGTH...



When the strength is there (in excess of 55,000 psi) as in the case of Laclede Multi-Ribbed Reinforcing Bars, why waste steel and add to cost and tonnage by specifying unnecessary bar embedment through codes rapidly becoming obsolete? By demanding reinforcing steel conforming to ASTM Specification A 305-47 T you can benefit from a more efficient use of steel.

The balanced design of the Laclede Multi-Rib Reinforcing Bar combines improved anchorage with high yield strength steel to assure its efficient use in up-to-date, economical construction.



Heat Div., Borg-Warner Corp., 672 E. Woodbridge, Detroit 26, Mich.

PLASTIC HANGER

A small inconspicuous hanger of *Tenile* plastic for hats or handbags is designed for church pews, theater seats, restaurant chairs, and bus and airplane seats. It consists of two stationary, but resilient, prongs grooved to accommodate the brim of a hat. Tenite is said to have



Small plastic hanger holds hats, handbags

sufficient "give" and toughness so that no mechanical hinge is needed. The top of the pronged section extends upward and forms a hook for the handle of a purse or umbrella.

The holder is installed on the seat back by means of small screws which slide into slots molded in the plastic. Plastic Process Ass'n., 3700 Euclid Ave., Cleveland 15, Ohio.

DUMB WAITER DOORS

Dumb Waiter Doors of steel for use with electric or hand power dumb waiters or for protecting the landing opening of conveyors, chutes and other types of floor-to-floor transportation systems are being manufactured by the Sedgwick Machine Works.

The doors come in four general types — bi-parting, slide-up, slide-down and hinged. Doors and frames are completely factory assembled units. Sedgwick Machine Works, 142 W. 15th St., New York 11, N. Y.

LUCITE WASHBASIN

Washbasins are now being made from heat resistant Dupont *Lucite* for use in small housing projects, summer cottages, trailers, boats, trains, etc.

This new basin is said to be stainless, chipless and comes in white, pink, blue and green. The over-all size is $14\frac{1}{4}$ in. (Continued on page 176)



DIFFUSER AND CONE ASSEMBLED

The New Kno-Draft Ceiling Smudge Control

Now you can control tough smudging problems. When exceptionally sooty, smoky or dusty air conditions are expected, or where rough textured, dirtcatching ceilings are employed, Kno-Draft Anti-Smudge Cones give the utmost in protection—and increase the attractiveness of the diffuser besides.

How it works

ANTI-SMUDGE CONE

Under normal conditions, all Kno-Draft diffusers can be adjusted so that their specially designed deep shoulder rims will deflect the discharge air away from the ceilings and prevent smudging. However, under the abnormal conditions mentioned above, the use of Kno-Draft anti-smudge cones is recommended. They furnish the additional control which will enable you to provide the precise minimum separation of the discharge air from the ceiling that you need to inhibit smudging and, at the same time, maintain the radial air diffusion pattern you need to eliminate drafts.

What we can do to help

W. B. Connor Engineering Corp. maintains a research laboratory with a staff of trained specialists and district representatives in leading cities. Their services are at the disposal of con-



sulting engineers, architects, air conditioning dealers, and plant engineers. They can assist you in getting the best possible performance out of your air conditioning system by creating custom-made air patterns which thoroughly mix room and supply air, eliminate drafts, and maintain uniform temperature throughout an area.

FREE HELPFUL LITERATURE

	BULLETIN K-22–Contains complete details on the new and exclusive Kno-Draft Anti-Smudge Cone.		
	NEW HANDBOOK ON AIR DIFFUSION – Contains all the engineering data necessary on air diffusion in general and Kno-Draft Adjustable Diffusers in particular to enable you to create "custom-made" air patterns and eliminate drafts.		
W. B. Connor Engineering Corp. Dept. S-110, 112 East 32nd Street New York 16, New York			
Please send me the free literature I have checked above.			
Name			
Company			
Street			
City	ZoneState		

ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING

long by 15 in. wide, and the weight is 21 lb.

The basins can be designed to meet individual specifications or designs. Faucets and drains are supplied if desired. Durable Formed Products, Inc., 6 Greene St., New York, N. Y.

TRAFFIC PAINT FOR CONCRETE

Concrete traffic paint, claimed to be both long-wearing and quick-drying, has

(Continued from page 174)

been developed particularly for marking factory aisle border lines; pull-out and storage areas; danger zones; and warning symbols at blind corners, entrances to passageways, etc.

The new paint is said to dry in about five minutes at 75° F. or over and can be sprayed on with conventional marking equipment. The *Oncrete* paint is immediately available in Federal Yellow, Traffic White and Traffic Black. Other



WEATHERTIGHT. Special roller crank closing action moves the entire door smoothly and evenly against the stop strips in the last few inches of its downward travel, effectively sealing the opening against dust, dirt, litter, snow, rain, sleet, and wind.

EASY WORKING. Tailored twin-torsion counterbalancing springs accurately support the weight of the door, so minimum effort is required for raising or lowering. Sticking is eliminated by the fast-freeing effect of the closing action.

DURABLE. Barcol OVERdoors give long, trouble-free service because of strong construction, accurate assembly, and good installation by factory-trained men. **DOUBLE-WIDTH FEATURES.** Above we show a double-width Barcol OVERdoor as used on a modern two-car garage. The use of wider single doors like this reduces the cost of installation, reduces the mechanism, eliminates the center post, gives more room for maneuvering two cars, and reduces the chances of damaging cars or garage by collision. These advantages are worth considering for every two-car garage door installation, whether new or remodeling.

ELECTRIC OPERATION. Barcol Electric



Door Operators are available for swinging, sliding, and overhead type doors, and for sliding gates. They offer the convenience and protection of switch control or the amazing Radio Control.

FACTORY-TRAINED SALES and SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES in PRINCIPAL CITIES

BARBER-COLMAN COMPANY 102 MILL ST. • ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS colors can be developed on request, according to the manufacturer. Lowebco, Inc., 1525 E. 53rd St., Chicago 15, Ill.

HOT WATER BOILER

Described as ideal for panel, gravity or forced feed hot water applications is a new boiler being marketed by Cleaver-Brooks Co.

The automatic boiler is designed to be fired by either oil or gas and is available in three sizes, 250,000, 550,000 and 730,000 Btu output.

Four-pass construction of the boiler shell is said to insure high rating and efficiency. The boilers are reported to have a minimum design pressure of 100 psi and are suitable for high temperature or pressure installations.



Oil- or gas-fired boiler is designed for panel, gravity or forced feed heating

A hinged rear door lined with refractory material is designed to provide easy accessibility for cleaning and maintenance. Exhaust gas is vented through a chimney.

The boiler is 113 in. long, 44 in. high and $26\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide. Cleaver-Brooks Co., 326 E. Keefe Ave., Milwaukee 12, Wis.



Rubber matting made in sponge-like form

SPONGE RUBBER MATTING

Industrial rubber matting is now being manufactured from Neoprene in a "sponge-rubber-like" form (containing nitrogen filled bubbles) which is said to provide a more restful cushioning effect. Triangular raised "feet" on both sides (Continued on page 178)

WHY A WELL PLANNED LIGHTING INSTALLATION NEEDS CORNING ALBA-LITE

Well planned fluorescent lighting results not only from the design and location of fixtures but also from the proper use of lighting glassware. Corning ALBA-LITE deserves special recognition for its qualities of diffusion and brightness control.

It diffusely transmits 60 to 65% of the light and diffusely reflects 25 to 35%, making its efficiency greater than 90% (the sum of reflection and transmission). This combined with even transmission and low panel brightness makes it adaptable to almost any type of fluorescent installation.

All these qualities are contained in a thin glass panel which permits shallow fixture construction, whether in fixtures or in complete ceilings. Cleaned easily, ALBA-LITE does not retain finger prints and resists weathering. It will not warp, discolor or scratch, regardless of the length of time in use. Add this to sound lighting qualities and you get efficient lighting performance.

Bulletin LS-17, now available, describes how ALBA-LITE is used for direct, semi-direct, semiindirect lighting and completely luminous ceilings. It also covers Corning's complete line of Engineered Lightingware. You should have a copy if lighting is one of your responsibilities.

ALBA-LITE is used on almost every floor of the Esso Building, New York City; Architects: Carson & Lundin; Lighting Engineers: Pollak & Grieve; Fixture Manufacturer: Caldwell & Co., all of New York City.

COLULIUG means research in GULUSS PYREX France

CORNING GLASS WORKS, DEPT. AR2, CORNING, N.Y.

Please send me your Data Book LS-17, "Corning Engineered Lightingware," describing MONA-LITE, ALBA-LITE and other Corning products.

NAME	TITLE	
COMPANY		
ADDRESS		
CITY	ZONESTATE	

. .

ENGINEERED LIGHTING WARE LS-17

ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING

TECHNICAL NEWS AND RESEARCH

(Continued from page 176)

of the mat provide non-slip foot traction. The *Neo-Sponge Comfort Matting* is described as being both an electrical and a thermal insulator, and having resistance to deterioration by greases, fats, oils, heat or acids.

The matting comes in standard widths of 18 and 36 in., in thicknesses of $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{8}$ in., and in lengths up to 9 ft. 6 in. American Floor Products Co., 1526 N St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

BURGLAR ALARM

Increased protection is provided in a new low-cost burglar alarm through application of a modulated light beam which is invisible to the naked eye.

The alarm is operated by a change in the "light level of the pre-set modulated frequency"; in this way it is said to be unaffected by surrounding light.

The manufacturer claims effective op-



MURPHY - CABRANETTE KITCHENS in the permanent beauty of porcelain on steel.

Gas or electric range of approved design, electric refrigerator with push-button door and stainless steel frozen food compartment, onepiece sink and range top, storage cases . . . streamlined in one compact unit. Vitreous porcelain on exposed surfaces never requires painting; washes clean with soap and water.

Trouble-free operation and negligible maintenance costs proven in 25 years of service in rental properties. Write for new bulletins.

DWYER PRODUCTS CORPORATION Dept. A2 - MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA

eration up to 250 ft. and says that the light beam can be directed around corners or criss-crossed to protect large areas economically. The alarm is said to be easily installed and requires no electrical adjustments. Ripley Co., Inc., Middletown, Conn.



Solids interceptor features easy cleaning

SOLIDS INTERCEPTOR

Quick and easy cleaning is listed by the manufacturer as one of the features of a new solids interceptor designed to prevent fragments of solids in waste water from flowing into building drainage lines.

A single motion brings the sediment container out for cleaning after the nonmetallic cover is removed by unlocking a clamp, according to reports.

Two perforated metal strainers intercept the solids in the waste water as it passes through the interceptor body, and serve, in addition, as baffles to calm the water so solids drop more readily to the bottom of the sediment container. J. A. Zurn Mfg. Co., Erie, Pa.

SCHOOLROOM LIGHTING FIXTURE

Designed specifically for schoolroom use, the Spill-Lite is reported made of virtually unbreakable tempered glass and designed for balanced illumination, easy cleaning and maintenance. Spill-Lite uses one 300 or 500 watt bulb which can be changed from the floor without removing the lighting bowl. The fixture is a silvered bowl unit 20 in. long and 21 in. wide, finished in satin chrome. It has a swivel type of rod suspension and is provided with a patented spillway to expel dirt, bugs and debris. The manufacturer claims an efficiency performance 10 per cent better than conventional units. It is said to furnish glareless, shadowless illumination. Appleman Art Glass Works, Bergenfield, N. J.

NOW... A NEW *Modine* CONVECTOR Designed Specifically For 1-Pipe Steam Systems

the New QUIET-SEAL*

WHAT IT IS: The new Modine Quiet-Seal is a convector designed specifically for 1-pipe steam heating systems. It gives you all the economies of 1-pipe steam plus the superb heating comfort, individual room temperature control, attractive styling and easy installation of the beautiful new Modine Convector Radiation line. Quiet-Seal's design eliminates troubles that result when 2-pipe steam or hot water convectors are adapted to 1-pipe systems. Its one-way flow principle gives you noiseless operation, full heating capacity, fast positive air elimination. Water spitting is eliminated because Quiet-Seal's built-in water seal insures free venting. What's more, patented damper permits individual room temperature control not available with ordinary radiators.

HOW IT OPERATES:

3

Quiet-Seal's one-way flow principle (proved in thousands of pre-war installations) is

shown in cutaway illustration above. Steam enters inlet header (1), is directed into upper tubes (2), passes through these tubes (3), to cross header located at extreme right of illustration. At (4) and (5), steam and condensate are directed to lower tube. Condensate, steam and air are returned through lower tube at (6), at which point air rises in header to air vent (7) where it's freely discharged. Condensate is spilled into built-in trap (8), overflows water seal of trap (9) and drains into supply branch. All components of the *Quiet-Seal* Convector — except $\frac{1}{2}$ inch shank, air vent, coupling, nipples and iron riser — are furnished by Modine.

Trade Mark Pending

*Design and Mechanical Patents Pending



New Beauty . . Easier Installation . . . Simpler Maintenance mark the New Modine Convector. Functionally styled to complement modern taste, it gives you these outstanding features: (1) Dual-Purpose Damper, (2) Convenient Air Venting, (3) 5-Second Removable Front, (4) Snap-in Lower Grille (optional), (5) Simplified Recessing. For all the facts, on the new Quiet-Seal 1-pipe convector, see your Modine Representative. He's listed in the ''Where-to-Buy-it' section of your phone book. Or send in coupon at right.

 Quiet-Seal convectors

 MODINE MANUFACTURING CO.

 1510 Dekoven Avenue, Racine, Wisconsin

 Gentlemen: Yest I want the new bulletin describing the New Modine

 Quiet-Seal Convector for 1-pipe steam systems.

 NAME

 ADDRESS

 CITY

Modine

ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING

MANUFACTURERS' LITERATURE

Wire Fence

Realock Fences (Catalog No. F-901). A complete line of wire fence and gates for various degrees of protection is described and illustrated in this bulletin. The different types of fence have been classified and thumb-indexed according to usage. Besides covering such typical applications as fences for residences, parks, swimming pools and industrial plants, the bulletin contains information on tennis court enclosures and baseball backstops.

Each fence type is illustrated and general specifications are included on



To Provide the Newest, Most Modern Overhead Door Convenience



Ordinary obstacles, and seasonal "headaches" such as slush, snow, and freezing temperatures are nothing to worry about when garage doors have been converted to the *overhead* door convenience made possible by Richards-Wilcox Garage Door Hardware. And with the new R-W nine-ninety-nine line the conversion process is swift, easy, economical. Everything needed for installation and operation, all hardware including tracks, comes complete in one carton. Requires only ½" headroom.

For modernization, or in planning new structures, specify overhead garage doors with R-W 999 Hardware, and be sure of doors that will function smoothly, quietly, effortlessly—so easy even a child can operate them. For further information about R-W 999 Garage Door Hardware, call the nearest Richards-Wilcox office, or write for free folder.





GARAGE DOOR HARDWARE



1880 1949 LEADERS IN DOOR HARDWARE OVER 69 YEARS



the fabric, terminal posts, pipe and post setting. Weights and dimensions of fence components are also given. 48 pp., illus. The Colorado Fuel and Iron Corp., Wickwire Spencer Steel Division, 361 Delaware Ave., Buffalo 2, N. Y.*

Asphalt Tile Flooring

Floors That Endure. Color photographs show floor design ideas for stores and offices, institutions, public areas and homes. Available colors, both plain and marbelized, are illustrated. Detail drawings show how connecting strips (to join tile of different thicknesses), cove bases and reducing strips (used as edging) are installed. 16 pp., illus. The Tile-Tex Co., Inc., 1232 McKinley Ave., Chicago Heights, Ill.*

Aluminum Architectural Shapes

Reynolds Extruded Aluminum Architectural Shapes. Portfolio of detailed drawings covering Reynolds present line of standard aluminum architectural shapes. Cross sections are all printed solid black in actual size.

An index in the front makes it easy for the draftsman to select the particular shape he wants for making up detail drawings.

Assembly drawings show how the various sections are combined for building up windows, copings, etc. Illustrations also show how the architectural shapes are joined to other members of the structure.

Additional reference information of value to architects and engineers is the size and weight data on aluminum rods and bars as well as standard structural shapes. Reynolds Metals Co., Desk 4220, 2500 So. Third St., Louisville 1, Ky.*

Rubber Floor Tile

New Horizons in Floor Design. Booklet shows 54 different floor designs possible with the new Wavedge rubber tile. It includes border and field patterns, centerpieces, repeat units and special design effects. This is made possible by the rubber tile being cut along a diagonal double curve.

A section in the back of the book provides installation and technical information. A list of suggested applications for the designs illustrated is also furnished. 64 pp., illus. The Danbury Rubber Co., Inc., Danbury, Conn.*

(Continued on page 182)

^{*} Other product information in Sweet's File, 1949


FAIRCHILD

FABRON Wall Coverings minimize maintenance...beautify for years

As THE originator of the large scale investment type apartment development in the insurance field, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company has pioneered in the art of selecting products which provide long-range maintenance economy. Its adoption of FABRON for Parkchester, its first and largest development, is an outstanding example.

FABRON is the *obvious choice* for *all* investment buildings and institutions whose decor need not be changed for long periods of time. *Obvious* – because its tough canvas backing, modern plastic core and non-peeling lacquer surface overcome all the conditions which inevitably lead to costly periodic redecorations.



• This famous Metropolitan Life Insurance Company development in the Bronx, New York City, operating since 1940, is one of four modern housing projects built by this company in the East. In the lobbies of all four — Parkchester, Stuyvesant Town, Peter Cooper Village and Riverton—FABRON is providing long-term protection and beauty, with impressive maintenance economies.

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Dubin & Dubin, Architects

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- 2 Cabot's Collopakes retain their lively colors — look fresh and bright for years. No fillers or adulterants are

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222 Oliver Bldg., Boston 9, Mass.

ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING

(Continued from page 180)

Embossed Metals

Idea Chart, Where and Why to Use Rigidized Metals. Convenient guide to product applications for a line of "texturized" metals. Fourteen standard patterns are illustrated, and 81 applications are listed together with reasons for using the texturized metals such as — decorative texture, mar concealment, rigidity, heat diffusion, weight saving, etc. 1 page, illus. Rigidized Metals Corp., 658 Ohio St., Buffalo 3, N. Y.

Acoustical Materials

Sound Control. Describes various Johns-Manville products which have been used to solve the problems of sound control. Typical installations are shown, and construction details illustrating current application methods are included. Pertinent data in the brochure covers sizes, weights and sound absorption values of the different materials. 16 pp., illus. Johns-Manville, 22 E. 40th St., New York 16, N. Y.*

Plastic Wall Covering, Upholstery

Kalistron Color Card. Twelve new (stock) colors for Kalistron, the plastic sheeting used as wall covering and upholstery material, are included in a new brochure-color card now being distributed by the United States Plywood Corp. A total of 29 colors and textures are illustrated in the folder. The new colors are coral, sandalwood, dove gray, pearl gray, avocado green, blue green, light blue, wedgewood blue, sand, lime and chartreuse. United States Plywood Corp., Flexwood and Flexglass Division, Weldwood Bldg., 55 W. 44th St., New York, N. Y.*

Movable Walls

Transite Movable Asbestos Walls. Describes partitional wall made of asbestos and cement that can be erected, dismantled and re-erected without loss of materials and with minimum of labor. Photographs illustrate recent installations in commercial, industrial and institutional buildings. Construction details show how the walls are assembled and cross sections of the wall components. Specifications are included. 24 pp., illus. Johns-Manville, 22 E. 40th St., New York 16, N. Y.*

(Continued on page 184)

What boiler would you recommend for a \$350,000 home?



This functionally modern home was recently built in Bloomsburg, Pa., by Harry L. Magee president of The Magee Carpet Company, it is one of Pennsylvania's finest show places. Berninger, Haag, and D'Entremont, Architects; George A. Heath, Heating Engineer; Wm. L. Coombs, Heating Contractor; Percy Swank, Building Contractor.

The finest, of course. That's what the architect, engineer, and contractor did when they built this magnificent home. In fact, they chose six H. B. Smith boilers — two to heat the main house, by radiant heat and by air conditioning ... one to supply domestic hot water ... two to warm the swimming pool water and recirculate it ... still another to supply domestic hot water and car-washing water to the garage.

No matter the size of the home your client wishes, you can recommend an H. B. Smith boiler that will give him "luxury" heating at bargain basement prices—for Smith-Mills boilers are designed and engineered to deliver maximum heat at lowest cost. True, they cost a little more to buy, but smaller fuel and maintenance bills more than make up the difference.

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> Largest boiler room in the Magee residence (there are several others!) includes two No. 340 ail-fired boilers and one No. 24 Hy-Test oil-fired hot water supply unit, all H. B. Smith products.





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ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING

CAL NEWS AND RESEARC

(Continued from page 182)

Metal Store Fronts

Natcor Extruded Metal Store Fronts. Contains detailed drawings on glass settings; bar reinforcements; division, corner and reverse bars; cap hanger and facia mouldings; vertical and horizontal mouldings; awning hoods; awning and transom bars; and glass settings. Several typical installations are shown. 15 pp., illus. Natcor, Providence 9, R. I.*

Metal Doors

Fenestra Metal Doors — Swing and Slide. This catalog describes the new Fenestra stock hollow-metal entrance door and also other stock hollow metal swing and slide doors, frames, locks and hardware. Detailed drawings, specifications and installation instructions are included. 16 pp., illus. Detroit Steel Products Co., 3113 Griffin St., Detroit 11, Mich.*

Soda Fountains, Food Servers

Seco-Superex Custom-Bilt Soda Fountains (Catalog SS-1). Presents complete line of soda fountain equipment including counters, back bars, food serving equipment and accessories.

From a variety of individual units available, the equipment may be selected so as to form the soda fountain which will best meet the owner's requirements. Available for combination are: 1 ice cream unit, 1 dispenser unit, 3 disher vat units, 6 sink units, 4 sandwich units, 3 hot food units, 2 toast units, 2 clean glass units, 1 plain top unit, 2 plate dispenser units, 8 end filler sections and 5 back bar units. Also illustrated are fountain accessories, refrigeration units and fountain stools. Four typical soda fountain layouts are included. 32 pp., illus. Seco Co., Inc., 5206 S. 38th St., St. Louis 16, Mo.

Waste Receptacles

Bennett Bilt Waste Receptacles. Steel waste containers from 10 to 49 in. in height are illustrated. They come in white and green enamel finish, and have stainless steel feet to eliminate rust marks. A table of specifications lists overall dimensions, weights and type of inner container furnished. 8 pp., illus. The Bennett Mfg. Co., Alden, N. Y.*

(Continued on page 186)

Modern Steam Heat For New Catholic High School

In planning the heating installation for Canisius High School, Consulting Engineer L. A. Cherry met two basic requirements set up by the Building Committee of Canisius High School.

First, even, comfortable temperatures in all sections of the school. Second, reduce heating costs to a minimum.



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Webster Representatives will gladly work with you from the time your building is in the planning stage until the heating system is operating to complete satisfaction.

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smoke reduces cleaning and redecorating costs; prolongs the life of equipment. And, in the mercantile section on which this "penthouse hotel" rests, super-clean air assumes the added duty of protecting merchandise from soilage.

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ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING

(Continued from page 184)

Packaged Steam Generators

Cyclotherm Automatic Steam Generators (Bulletin P-1). Operating principles and design characteristics of the Cyclotherm steam generators, which burn oil, gas or both, are discussed in this bulletin. Diagrams illustrate the combustion system used, which is said to provide quick, efficient steam generation. Standard ratings and dimensions are listed for the generators which range from 10 to 300 boiler h.p. Cyclotherm Corp., Dept. 33R, 90 Broad St., New York 4, N.Y.

Air Conditioning

Air Conditioning Design. The general procedure for designing an air conditioning system is described in this brochure published by the American Society of Refrigerating Engineers. Definitions of air conditioning terms are given. Other sections discuss heat loads to be considered, determining the amount of refrigeration needed, zoning, mechanical equipment and controls. 6 pp. The American Society of Refrigerating Engineers, 40 W. 40th St., New York 18, N. Y. 40 cents.

LITERATURE REQUESTED

The following individuals and firms request manufacturers' literature:

Robert M. Bouma, Student, Apt. 203, 1301 N. Courthouse Road, Arlington, Va.

Bracken Engineering Company, 2216 Bedford Avenue, Johnstown, Pa.

Alvaro Cardenas, Architect, Carrera 13 No. 33-13, Bogota, Colombia, S. A.

William F. Cody, Architect, 11975 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles. Calif.

Guillermo Luis Fuchs, General Contractor, 9 de Julio 68, Cordoba, Argentina, S. A.

John S. McDonald, Architect & Engineer, 2438 Glenmore Avenue, Davton 9, Ohio.

Henry Nathanson, Builder, 376 Clarke Avenue, Westmount, Que., Canada.

Harwood and Prince Co., Drafting Service, 1408 South Stearns Drive, Los Angeles 35, Calif.

Harry N. Roberts, Architect, Room 4. Washington Hardware Bldg., Kennewick, Wash.



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NEWS FROM CANADA

(Continued from page 170)

need can be undertaken only at heavy capital cost. With tax rates rising, even without substantial new investments, most municipalities are trying to get along with existing sewage, fire, water and similar systems until labor and materials become less scarce and expensive.

What effect this will have on housing production in 1949 remains to be seen, but a bumper crop of wells and septic tanks seems assured.

Basic Industry Planning Key?

Another nail was driven into the coffin of the "city beautiful" conception of planning by Frederick H. Allen, of Harrison, Ballard and Allen, New York housing consultants, when he recently addressed the Toronto Chapter of the Society of Residential Appraisers.

In picturesque and forceful language, Mr. Allen warned that "Basic manufacturing for export beyond the city is the guts of a municipality. Therefore the job of town planning is to seek a proper balance between maintaining places of profitable employment and creating places of desirable residence, within the limits of an economic and endurable transportation system.

"A city thrives, and its residents are all ultimately dependent on, basic manufacturing — by which I mean production that is shipped for sale elsewhere. I draw a distinction here against manufacturing for local consumption, because no city can exist simply by taking in its own washing."

Mr. Allen, while disarmingly frank in discussing the shortcomings of American cities, turned uncommunicative when, following a brief tour of Toronto, he was asked his opinion of that city. "It seems," he said, "to be clean."

More Rental Housing for Vets

"The rental housing program for veterans will be continued in 1949," announces Hon. R. H. Winters, Canada's new Minister of Reconstruction and Supply. Under this program, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation enters into arrangements with municipalities whereby the municipality makes land and services available and Central Mortgage builds four, five and six-room houses for rental to veterans with the highest priority on a point-rating system.

The Minister stated that in 1948 some 9000 rental units were arranged for with municipalities. This total was considerably less than the target figure of 12,000. It has been decided to set no target in 1949 but let the volume depend entirely on the willingness and ability of municipalities to participate in the program. Only **ANCHOR FENCE** gives you ✓ DEEP-DRIVEN ANCHORS ✓ SQUARE FRAME GATES ✓ H-BEAM LINE POSTS

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(Continued on page 196)

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INDEX TO ADVERTISEMENTS

	Adam, Frank Electric Co	41
	Aerofin Corporation	204
	Air Devices, Inc	80
	Alan Wood Steel Company	14
	Aluminum Window Manufacturers Associa-	
u		17
	tion	185
	American Air Filter Company, Inc	
	American Abrasive Metals Co	170
a	American Brass Company	73
	American Radiator & Standard Sanitary	
	Corp	62
	American Structural Products Co40	-149
	American Telephone & Telegraph Co	44
		188
ae	American Zinc Institute	
	Anaconda Copper Mining Co	73
e	Anchor Post Products, Inc	188
ae	Anemostat Corp. of America	48
	Anthracite Institute	209
		152
	Architectural Record	
ae	Armstrong Cork Company	35
	Asphalt Roofing Industry Bureau	45
ae	Barber-Colman Company	176
ab	Bell & Gossett Company	69
	Bell Telephone System	44
ae	Benjamin Electric Mfg. Co	55
	Bennett-Ireland Inc	196
aha	Berger Manufacturing Division	51
	Bethlehem Steel Company	
ab	Bird & Son, Inc	160
	Bigelow Rugs & Carpets	42
-	Blank, Frederic & Co., Inc	181
a	Bolta Products Sales Inc	
		198
	Books	3-211
	Borg-Warner Corporation	173
-	Bruce, E. L. Co	54
ab	Bryant Heater Company	15
	Burnham Corporation	171
de	Burt Mfg. Co	12
	Byers, A. M. Co	4
	Byers, A. M. Co	-
-h	Cabot, Samuel, Inc	182
	Carrier Corporation	50
ab	Ceco Steel Products Corp	8
abe	Celotex Corporation	139
-	Cheney Flashing Co	200
a		
	Chicago Hardware Foundry Co	145
ab	Chicopee Mfg. Corporation	38
	Combustion Equipment Division	186
	Committee on Steel Pipe Research	191
	Connor, W. B. Engineering Corp	175
	Corning Glass Works	177
	Couch, S. F. Co	186
		157
	Coyne & Delany Co	
b	Crane Co	147
a	Curtis Companies Service Bureau	75
a	Cutler Mail Chute Co	196
a	Day-Brite Lighting, Inc	197
		183
	Detroit Steel Products Company	
	Drave Corporation	190
ae	DuPont, E. I. de Nemours & Co	202
	Duriron Co., Inc	168
	Dwyer Products Corp	178
a	wwyer riodocis corp	1/0
	Electric Storage Battery Co	46
a	Elkay Manufacturing Co	202
0	Ellison Bronze Co	172
	Employment Opportunities	4-196
	Enterprise Engine & Foundry Co	32
	another angline at roundry cotter.	32
	Faber, A. WCastell Pencil Co., Inc	100
	· woor, A. Wwusien rench Co., Inc	192

	ruber, A.		SIGILI	CI	ICI	 .0.	1	 c.	••	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	147
abe	Fiat Metal	Mfg.	Co			 										150

a	Fitzgibbons Boiler Company	140
	Flintkote Company	Cover
	Frigidaire Division	159
	General Aniline & Film Corp	212
	General Controls	192
a	General Electric Co.—Plastics	43
-	General Electric Co.—Wiring	
b	General Motors Co	159
	General Portland Cement Co	214
	Great Lakes Steel Corporation	59
	Grasselli Chemicals Department	202
	Grinnell Company, Inc	68
ue		
	Guth, Edwin F. Co	18
	Haws Drinking Faucet Co	204
a	Herring-Hall-Marvin Safe Co	206
	Hoffman Specialty Co	21
	Homasote Company	190
	Horn, A. C. Company, Inc	29
a	Horn Brothers Co	164
abe	Hunter Fan & Ventilating Co., Inc	212
-	Imperial Brass Mfg. Co	
a		6
	Infra Insulation, Inc	156
	Ingersoll Utility Unit Division	173
	International Nickel Company, Inc	81
	International Oil Burner Co	210
	Jackson & Church Co3rd	
a	Jamestown Metal Corp	200
	Jenkins Bros	37
ae	Johns-Manville	218
ae	Josam Mfg. Co	13
-	Kennedy, David E., Inc	58
a		2000
	Kewaunee Mfg. Co	162
ab	Kimberly-Clark Corporation	66
	Kohler Co	76
a	L.C.N. Door Closers	77
	Laclede Steel Company	174
	Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company20	
abe		
	Liberty Mirror Division	211
	Lone Star Cement Corporation	1
a	Macomber, Incorporated	16
de	Mahon, R. C. Company	31
	Maple Flooring Manufacturers Assoc	72
	Marble Institute of America, Inc	36
	Marsh Wall Products, Inc	166
a	Martin-Parry Corp	71
	Masland Duraleather Co	214
a	Medart, Fred Products, Inc	2-3
a	Medusa Portland Cement Co.	210
abe	Mesker Brothers	151
	Michaels Art Bronze Co	30
	Minneapolis-Honeywell	82
a	Minwax Company, Inc	184
ae	Modine Manufacturing Co	179
0	Monarch Elevator & Machine Co	214
	Monroe, Lederer & Taussig, Inc	204
ab	Mueller Brass Co	70
-	Natcor Store Fronts	210
	National Electric Products Corp	39
	National Gypsum Company	187
	National Terrazzo & Mosaic Assoc	206
	New Castle Products	215
c	1 110 W 443110 F 1444413	¥13
		• •

MANUFACTURERS' PRE-FILED CATALOGS Symbols "a", "b", and "e" indicate that catalogs of firms so marked are available in Sweet's Files as follows:

a—Sweet's File, Architectural, 1949 b—Sweet's File for Builders, 1948 e—Sweet's File, Engineering, 1948

ae	Okonite Company	206
	Olsonite Plastics Division	11
	Otis Elevator Company	
abe	Owens-Illinois Glass Co40-	-149
	Ozalid Products Division	212
α	Petroleum Heat & Power Company	213
	Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company56-57-	
ae	Pittsburgh Steel Products Company	155
	Powers Regulator Company	167
ae	Pumice Producers Association	49
	Reliable Typewriter & Adding Machine Co	198
	Republic Steel Corporation 19-51-142-	
	Revere Copper & Brass, Inc	78
a	Reynolds Metals Company	79
ae	Renardo Fridox Highlin	180
ab	Richmond Radiator Company Rilco Laminated Products Inc	79
ae		158 63
ue	Rixson, Oscar C. Company	154
ne	Robertson, H. H. Company	
a		153
	Royal Heaters, Inc	194
ab	Russell, F. C. Company	208
ae	Rust-Oleum Corporation	146
	Samson Cordage Works	212
	Sarco Company, Inc	202
	Schlage Lock Company	47
	Scott Washroom Advisory Service Seaporcel Metals, Inc	161 144
	Servel, Inc	
	Sloane Valve Company4th C	
	Sloane-Blabon Corporation	9
ab	Smith, A. O. Corporation	27
a	Smith, H. B. Co., Inc	182
	Smithcraft Lighting Division	163
	Sperzel Company	190
	Standard Shingle & Shake Association Steel & Tubes Division	25 142
	Stran-Steel Division	59
	Streamline Pipe & Fittings Division	70
	Super-Vent Co	215
	Swedish Crucible Steel Co	11
a	Symmons Engineering Co	200
	Thermoseal Division	208
	Timber Engineering Company	215
ae	Timber Structures, Inc	210
	Todd Shipyards Corp	186
abe	Trane Company	165
a		214
abe	Truscon Steel Company	19
	United States Air Conditioning Corporation5	
ab	United States Plywood Corp33	-193
ae		148
a	Universal Atlas Cement Company	148
a	Vonnegut Hardware Co	74
ae	Wakefield, F. W. Brass Company	169
	Webster, Warren & Co	184
	Weis, Henry Mfg. Co	20
c	Werner, R. D. Co., Inc	198
	West Dodd Lighting Conductor Corp	208
	York Corporation	201
abe	Zonolite Company	192

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